Final Report
preparations, achievements, conclusions

submitted by the Government Plenipotentiary
for the Preparation of Governmental Administrative Agencies
and Poland’s Presidency of the Council of the European Union
in accordance with § 1 p. 2 of the Ordinance of the Council of Ministers
of 15 July 2008 (Journal of Laws No. 133, item 843 with later amendments)

The report adopted by the Council of Ministers on 17 April 2012

Warsaw, April 2012

Polish Presidency
of the Council of the European Union
1 July – 31 December 2011
Editing
Department of Coordination of Poland’s Presidency of EU Council
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland

Published by
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland

Printing and binding
Rytter Investment Printing House

Publication printed on
FSC certified ecological paper
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Koncepcja przygotowań i sprawowania prezydencji

Preparations Concept:
Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union
The Republic of Poland’s first – and thus historical – Presidency of the Council of the European Union, scheduled by the Council for 1 July through 31 December 2011, took place in the second half of the second year after the adoption of the Lisbon Treaty (LT). This meant that neither the new institutional framework of the European Union (EU) nor its operations as laid out in the Lisbon Treaty had been fully formed yet. In light of the Polish Presidency having been confronted with such circumstances, the Council of Ministers concluded that on the one hand, the Polish Presidency shall target effective management of the Council’s individual sector-related formations with no option of managing the preparations, course, or results of European Council sessions, while on the other hand – shall strive to shape such areas of EU operations as have been assigned to EU presidencies under the LT, thus allowing them a field for manoeuvre in terms of tabling and implementing initiatives of their own. Another objective was that of creating specific measures and methods of operation, potentially to be included as part of general practice followed by subsequent states assuming presidency in the European Union.

From the viewpoint of consecutive presidencies and the modified formula of their operation, crucial changes limiting their competencies included in particular the appointment of the President of the European Council and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy; strengthening the position of the President of the European Commission (EC), and expanding the role of the European Parliament (EP). As a result of all these changes, every Member State holds presidency in different Council configurations only (the Foreign Affairs Council excepted) for a period of six months; the entire evolution is assigned to pre-designed groups of three Member States for periods totalling eighteen months.

As the fourth state to assume the Presidency of the Council of the EU under the Lisbon Treaty regime, and the fourth ‘new’ (following the 2004 expansion) Member State to do so, in preparing for presidency the Polish government decided to opt for ambition and activeness in content and form alike. With regard to organisational matters concerning the Presidency of the Council of the European Union, it was decided that individual Polish regions would be promoted as part of our Presidency. The concept was implemented by way of preparing and holding focal informal meetings of different levels at selected Polish cities.

In terms of key merit areas, it was decided that the Polish Presidency would be put to use at the General Affairs Council, COREPER I and II, and other Union structures, to enable the launch of targeted technical initiatives valuable to broadly defined Polish interests. This was to serve the purpose of consolidating Poland’s international image as one of the most important, active and competent European Union Member States.

Presidential efficiency, and in particular the effective presentation of initiatives in the area of third country relations on the borderline of respective competencies assigned to the presidency and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Lady Catherine Ashton (High Representative/HR) required former consultation and day-to-day co-operation. The efficient and consistent application of the concept enabled the Polish Presidency to be effective (within the framework of limited prerogatives assigned to rotating presidencies) in action in the field of foreign policy and European Union security in relations with third countries, including the Union’s support for democratic movements in North Africa. Moreover, the aforementioned efficiency and consistency allowed for successful preparation and organising of the top-ranking event under the Polish Presidency – the Eastern Partnership Summit – originally to be organised by the Hungarian Presidency in the first half of 2011.

The Presidency of the Council of the EU under the new circumstances of the Lisbon Treaty regime required an accord, as well as regular working contacts and consultation with other partners of the presidential trio, Denmark in particular. Such contact was organised at the level of foreign affairs and European affairs ministers, and of ministries and ministerial representatives responsible for different sector-related areas. Regular and frequent contacts in preparation ensured successful approval of programme documents and agreements for the eighteen-month term spanning presidencies to be held by all three countries of our trio, in strategic and operational segments alike. In May 2011, the President of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Poland Donald Tusk met the President of the Republic of Cyprus and the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Denmark in Warsaw, to discuss matters key to trilateral co-operation for purposes of the upcoming group presidency to be held by the three states.

In the context of the strengthened role of the European Parliament, developing a successful formula of co-operating with that institution was a crucial aspect of the Polish Presidency. The objective was served by a number of initiatives and actions: early identification; contact established by heads of ministries and central authorities with key EP representatives, and regular

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1 Decision of the European Union Council of 1 July 2007 determining the order in which the office of President of the Council shall be held, Official Journal of the European Union 2007 L1/11.

2 The Lisbon Treaty formally came into force on 1 December 2009.

dialogue in the course of the Presidency itself; the frequent presence of the Plenipotentiary and of Polish ministers at EP plenary sessions and sessions of individual EP committees, participation in numerous parliamentary debates included; introducing a supplementary forum for dialogue with the EP in the form of monthly informal debates of presidential ministers with Members of the EP, such as ‘Meet the Presidency’ in Strasbourg. Key events organised as part of the preparations preceding the Polish Presidency and determining the Presidency-EP relations included visits paid to Warsaw by the Conference of Presidents of the European Parliament, the EP’s major political groups, and the Parliament’s committees, as well as the Plenipotentiary’s June 2011 meeting with the Conference of Presidents of the European Parliament. In the course of the latter, the Plenipotentiary described the Polish Presidency’s priorities and programme in assorted sectors of European Union work, presented the Presidency’s expectations of the European Parliament, and outlined the vision of co-operation between the Polish Presidency and the EP.

Thanks to long-term and multifaceted preparations for the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union, neither the new quality of European institutional operations under the new Lisbon Treaty regime, nor challenges stemming from lack of former experience as the acting European Union Council Presidency impacted the organisational or technical efficacy of the Polish Presidency, in particular in comparison with Member States more experienced in the field. In consequence, it may be concluded that the professional nature of organisational and technical preparation blended in with the absence of complexes allowed the Polish Presidency to remain ambitious and efficient in the process of designing, delivering, and presenting its position with regard to a number of priority issues on all Union forums. This may be, for example, proven by the Polish Presidency’s activeness during European Parliament debates, focusing among others on the Multiannual Financial Framework, the financial, economic and social crisis within the EU, and the state of the European Union; by sound preparation for European Union sessions; by partaking in the design and adoption of the agreement on EU’s anti-crisis action; by adopting the Joint Declaration of the Warsaw Eastern Partnership Summit; and by drafting an agreement concerning EU’s position for purposes of the Durban Climate Conference.

Under formal and legal conditions amended by virtue of the Lisbon Treaty, it ought to be recognised that wherever beneficial and feasible, the Polish Presidency took advantage of Treaty provisions to introduce favourable sector-related and political directions to the process of drafting European policies.
Internationally, the first half of 2011 brought mainly unchanged financial and economic crisis conditions to the majority of European states. The ever-growing risk of the breakdown of the euro as the common currency of European Union Member States was another factor attracting the attention of the rest of the world, including leaders of the G-20 countries. These problems were superimposed by continuous long-term recession, and grave uncertainty as to further developments in the US economy. Globally, the period of preparation for and the actual holding of the Polish Presidency coincided with groundbreaking changes in Arab states. Tunisian, Egyptian, and Libyan citizens began their struggle for democracy and respect for human rights. Although it was obvious that Tunisians, Egyptians, and Libyans would have to bear the brunt of action themselves in order to legitimise such democratic movements, they did little to conceal averted hopes of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation and other international political-and-economic organisations, such as the UN or EU, for example, offering active support to pro-democratic rising. Despite the unfavourable economic condition of the majority of NATO and the EU Member States, they did not remain indifferent to the dramatic needs of the Arab Spring.

In Poland’s immediate neighbourhood, the international community was primarily concerned with the escalated repression against Belorussian oppositionists, Polish minority activists included, by President Alexander Lukashenko. During the first half of 2011, international public opinion was also troubled by the severe political and legal action taken by Ukrainian state authorities against the leader of the Ukrainian opposition Yulia Tymoshenko. Such an attitude by the authorities of both countries towards European standards and values impacted two upcoming events, crucial to both states and coinciding with the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union. Firstly, the organisation and results of the Warsaw Eastern Partnership Summit, postponed to September 2011; secondly, the prolonged Ukrainian/European Union negotiations concerning the association agreement, including the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA) agreement. In both cases, given their respective diversity, justified concern arose that events in both states could result in a deterioration of their political relations with the European Union. In effect, the process of bringing Minsk and Kiev closer to European Union structures – via the Polish Eastern Partnership Summit initiative and the association agreement with Ukraine – became jeopardised. Concurrently, the European Union was becoming increasingly aware of the fact that its former neighbourhood policies had yielded rather moderate results, proving insufficiently flexible in light of the changes taking place in its diversified environment.4

The European Union agenda for the first half of 2011 highlighted issues of the political and economic crisis in Greece, of matters troubling the eurozone, and of the increasingly distinctive concept of a two-speed Europe. Given the circumstances, EU Member States were attentive and diversified in their tolerance of actions taken by German and French leaders to aid Greece in overcoming its in-house economic and social crisis. Reasonably, it was believed that the Greek crisis may bring tragic consequences to other European Union countries. The Union was anxiously watching the new and grave symptoms of economic difficulties sprouting in other European economies alongside Greece, in Ireland, Spain, Portugal, and Italy in particular.

From the vantage point of the upcoming Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union, tremendous importance was attached to in-house European Union efforts to reach an accord with the European Parliament, and the follow-up introduction of a package of six pieces of legislation fortifying financial supervision in eurozone countries – the so-called ‘Six-Pack’. Another matter of key importance to the Polish Presidency was that of further European Union expansion, and especially of finalising accession negotiations with Croatia and continuing them with Turkey. As the future Presidency, Poland supported continued sound co-operation with the President of the European Council, the High Representative, and the European Commission for the purposes of the as yet non-finalised process of drafting a much-delayed agreement on co-operation between the European Union and the Russian Federation. The matter of finalising formal relations between both organisations was also crucial in the context of prolonged negotiations concerning Russian accession to the World Trade Organisation. Despite the earlier hopes of making EU-Russian relations more dynamic thanks to the Partnership for Modernisation facility, the first year of its history blatantly displayed a lack of any new or specific factors boosting mutual co-operation.

In general terms, the international situation on the eve of the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union was enormously complicated politically as well as economically. The deteriorating US-Pakistani relations following Osama-bin-Laden’s death, the ever-increasing economic and political importance of the Chinese People’s Republic, co-operation developing between leading emerging economies (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and the Republic of South Africa) to a certain detriment of those states’ relations with the European Union, and

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4 On 25 May 2011, the EC and HR published a document entitled A New Response to a Changing Neighbourhood, containing conclusions summarising a review (spanning a period exceeding one year) of the European Neighbourhood Policy, and suggested improvements thereto.
1.2. Geo-political Context of the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union

uncertainties as concerns the US economy – all these factors were recognised as major features of the international situation during the period immediately preceding the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

On the other hand, the European Union’s failure to adopt specific solutions to remedy the Greek crisis, and – more broadly – the eurozone as part of the Union, the threat of a second financial credit crunch, financial losses and insufficient capitalisation of numerous leading European banks (German and French in particular), and the increasingly intense armed struggle for democracy in North Africa, especially in Libya, all gave rise to concern that the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union would be summarily obscured by the day-to-day financial and economic difficulties of European Union countries, and by the North African armed conflict. Nonetheless, from a time perspective it may be concluded that the efficient organising of the Polish Presidency based on former agreements with European Union partners and institutions enabled this rotation-based presidency to succeed in focusing on predefined priorities within the framework of sectoral councils, with regard to budgeting and finance in particular. On the other hand, Lisbon Treaty restrictions notwithstanding, following earlier discussions with the President of the European Council, President of the European Commission, and the HR, the Polish Presidency actively joined the process of planning and implementing the EU’s foreign policy, specifically with regard to the EU’s reaction to Arab anti-regime uprisings, and in neighbourhood policy and the Eastern Partnership programme. Another crucial aspect was the Polish Presidency’s co-chairmanship at numerous meetings with third country partners, which translated into active participation in the Union’s internal foreign affairs dialogue.
1.3. Structures involved

1.3.1. The Government Plenipotentiary and Support Staff

By virtue of the Council of Ministers Ordinance of 15 July 2008\(^1\), a Government Plenipotentiary for the Preparation of Governmental Administrative Agencies and Poland’s Presidency of the Council of the European Union (Plenipotentiary) was appointed. Mikołaj Dowgielewicz, Secretary of State at the Office for the Committee of European Integration was nominated Plenipotentiary. The Plenipotentiary’s responsibilities included the following:

1) Co-ordinating government agencies’ activities in the area of preparations for the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union,
2) Drafting a government Programme of Preparing the Republic of Poland for the the Presidency of the European Union Council (…),
3) Co-ordinating works relating to the drafting of a programme and calendar for the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union (…), and co-ordinating works relating to the selection of sector-based priorities (…),
4) Initiating and co-ordinating works relating to the preparation of draft legislation (…),
5) Co-ordinating works of estimating funds required for preparation and the Presidency itself (…),
6) Co-ordinating government agencies’ activities in the area of training and professional skills improvement for administrative agency staff and other civil servants (…),
7) Co-operating with educational institutions of European Union Member States in the field of training and professional skills improvement (…),
8) Maintaining contact and exchanging experience with administrative agencies in other European Union Member States (…),
9) Co-ordinating co-operation with institutions entrusted with European Union Council Presidency preparations in countries joining the Republic of Poland in group presidency,

Governmental administrative agencies were obliged to co-operate with and support the Plenipotentiary in the performance of all duties as listed. Furthermore, the Plenipotentiary was granted authority to appoint review and counselling teams and to commission expert opinions.

All technical, organisational and legal as well as office and administrative support to be provided to the Plenipotentiary was commissioned by the Office for the Committee of European Integration (OCEI). Following the merger of the Office with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Office’s responsibilities were assumed by the Ministry as of 1 January 2010.

Exercising his competencies, the Plenipotentiary appointed\(^2\) interdisciplinary review and counselling teams for budget affairs, logistics and security, promotion and culture, and human resources management, as well as an Independent Expert Team for Programming the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union. The role of the teams was to draft guidelines and recommendations in their respective core competency areas, with regard to preparations for and duration of the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union. Moreover, all teams participated in drafting documents and papers presented by the Plenipotentiary for approval to the European Committee of the Council of Ministers (ECCM), later renamed the Committee for European Affairs (CEA)\(^3\), and to the Council of Ministers (CM). For more information on the teams’ responsibilities and activities, see subsection 1.4.1.

The participation of government agencies representatives in review and counselling teams’ work was effective, in particular when they were granted appropriately extensive decision-making authority, enabling them to implement decisions made by the team, within the scope of duties of their own seconding authority.

Additionally, in March 2010 the Plenipotentiary appointed a team of liaison officers to co-operate with the Plenipotentiary on all matters relating to the European Parliament, for ensuring effective co-ordination of co-operating with the EP when preparing ministries and central authorities for the Presidency.

For adapting the content of the ordinance appointing the Plenipotentiary to the status quo following the merger of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Office for

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\(^{2}\) Following the dismissal of the Office for the Committee of European Integration by virtue of the Committee of European Integration Act of 27 August 2009 (Journal of Laws no. 161, item 1277).

1.3. Structures involved

the Committee of European Integration, a relevant ordinance to this effect was published.3

For ensuring co-ordination of all activities with regard to the ensuring of proper security throughout the Presidency, an Interdisciplinary Security Team for the Preparations for and Duration of Poland’s Presidency of the European Union Council in 2011 was appointed by virtue of Ordinance No. 60 of the President of the Council of Ministers of 28 July 2009. The team could be set up only once the ordinance appointing the Plenipotentiary was amended as concerns modification to his competencies in the field of co-ordinating activities to ensure security throughout the period in preparations for and duration of Poland’s Presidency of the European Union Council.4

Another change in the structure of preparing Poland for the Presidency of the European Union Council resulted from the appointment of a Governmental Plenipotentiary for Security in the Preparations for and Duration of Poland’s Presidency of the European Union.

The Office for the Committee of European Integration was liquidated by virtue of the Committee of European Integration Act of 27 August 2009 (Journal of Laws No. 161, item 1277).


For ensuring co-ordination of all activities with regard to the ensuring of proper security throughout the Presidency, an Interdisciplinary Security Team for the Preparations for and Duration of Poland’s Presidency of the European Union Council in 2011 was appointed by virtue of Ordinance No. 60 of the President of the Council of Ministers of 28 July 2009. The team could be set up only once the ordinance appointing the Plenipotentiary was amended as concerns modification to his competencies in the field of co-ordinating activities to ensure security throughout the period in preparations for and duration of Poland’s Presidency of the European Union Council. These tasks included, but were not limited to, ensuring the safety of conference venues and meeting participants, fire protection, and medical services. The Plenipotentiary was supported by a Security Team for the Preparations for and Duration of Poland’s Presidency of the European Union Council in 2011, appointed by virtue of the Plenipotentiary’s Instruction No. 1 of 8 July 2010. The team constituted a review and counselling entity.

All preparation-related decisions were passed by the European Committee of the Council of Ministers, later renamed the Committee for European Affairs, as well as the Committee of the Council of Ministers (CCM), and the Council of Ministers itself. All key documents adopted in the area of preparations for and duration of Poland’s Presidency of the European Union Council have been listed in the Table below.

Table 1. Documents Concerning Preparations for the Presidency

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Document</th>
<th>Adoption/Assessment Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ordinance on appointing a Government Plenipotentiary for the Preparation of Governmental Administrative Agencies and Poland’s Presidency of the Council of the European Union</td>
<td>15 July 2008 (CM)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programme of Preparations for and Duration of the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union</td>
<td>10 October 2008 (ECCM) 13 January 2009 (CM)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information on Services Provided to Preparation Agencies of the European Union Council – Defining the Polish Presidency 2011 Model</td>
<td>28 November 2008 (ECCM)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information for Institutions Participating in Preparations for Presidency of the European Union Council – Application Limits for the Presidency Corps Included in the Central Training System</td>
<td>12 May 2009 (ECCM)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multiannual Programme: Preparation, Support, and Duration of the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union in the Second Half of 2011 Resolution on the Setting up of a Multiannual Programme to Ensure Funding of PLN 430 million for Purposes of Preparations for and Duration of the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union</td>
<td>9 June 2009 (ECCM) 23 June (CM)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Document</th>
<th>Adoption/Assessment Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Facilities Recommended as National Meeting Venues for the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union in 2011</td>
<td>29 June 2009 (CM)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good Practices Catalogue. Guidelines to Partnership Contracts with Businesses Operating to Support the Organisation of the Polish Presidency</td>
<td>21 July 2009 (ECCM)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Priorities and Programming of the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union in 2011</td>
<td>21 July 2009 (ECCM)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strategic Assumptions for Artistic Events Organised during the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union in the Second Half of 2011</td>
<td>30 July 2009 (ECCM)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preparations for the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union – Works on the Presidency Meetings Calendar</td>
<td>8 September 2009 (ECCM)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information on Additional Allocation of Funds from a Target Provision of the State Budget, Part 83, Item 9: Costs Relating to the Preparation of Administrative Agencies for Poland’s Presidency of the European Union Council and Representation at the European Court of Justice, for Purposes of Internships and Study Tours in 2009 within the Framework of Preparations for the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union</td>
<td>8 September 2009 (ECCM)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criteria of Defining Sector-Related Priorities of the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union</td>
<td>22 September 2009 (ECCM)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information on the Selection of EU Member State Capitals and Third Country Capitals Participating in the Cultural Programme of the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union in the Second Half of 2011</td>
<td>13 October 2009 (ECCM)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preparations for the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union – Works on the Presidency Meetings Calendar, Part Two</td>
<td>27 October 2009 (ECCM)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Executive Document to the Multiannual Programme: Preparation, Support, and Duration of the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union in the Second Half of 2011</td>
<td>22 December 2009 (ECCM)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organisation of Interpreting Services for Meetings Held in the Course of the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union</td>
<td>22 December 2009 (ECCM)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assumptions to the Cultural Programme of the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union in the Second Half of 2011: Poland and Brussels.</td>
<td>29 January 2010 (ECCM)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calendar of Meetings Planned in the Course of the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union in 2011</td>
<td>12 February 2010 (ECCM)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recommendations for Ministers on Co-operating with the European Parliament during Preparations and Duration of the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union</td>
<td>3 March 2010 (CEA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rules of Funding and Organising Meetings Held in Poland during the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union Annex 5.3: List of Meetings Held Centrally under the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union in the Second Half of 2011 Supplementary Annex: List of Meetings for Purposes of which a Presidency Facility is to be Provided</td>
<td>9 March 2010 (CEA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permanent Representation of the Republic of Poland to the European Union in Brussels and other Diplomatic Posts – Staff Support for the Duration of the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union</td>
<td>19 March 2010 (CEA)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### 1.3. Structures involved

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Document</th>
<th>Adoption/Assessment Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>List of Meetings Organised in Poland under the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union, for Purposes of which Financial Assistance is to be Provided as Part of the Central Pool of the Multiannual Programme (part of the PLN 30 million fund)</td>
<td>11 May 2010 (CEA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff Support for the Duration of the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union. Permanent Representation of the Republic of Poland to the European Union in Brussels and other Diplomatic Posts, Part Two</td>
<td>2 June 2010 (CEA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Draft List of Priority Programmes for the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union</td>
<td>2 July 2010 (CEA) 21 July 2010 (CM)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff Support for the Duration of the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union. Permanent Representation of the Republic of Poland to the European Union in Brussels and other Diplomatic Posts, Part Three</td>
<td>6 July 2010 (CEA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programming the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union. <strong>Fiche System: Project Overview and Technical Specification</strong></td>
<td>13 July 2010 (CEA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Draft Polish Contribution to the Eighteen-Month Programme of the Poland-Denmark-Cyprus Trio</td>
<td>14 September 2010 (CEA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Main Assumptions to the System of Co-ordinating Polish European Policy under the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union</td>
<td>30 November 2010 (CEA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calendar of Meetings Planned under the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union in the Second Half of 2011</td>
<td>16 December 2010 (CEA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permanent Representation of the Republic of Poland to the European Union in Brussels and other Diplomatic Posts – Staff Support for the Duration of the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union. Part Four</td>
<td>21 December 2010 (CEA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Security Programme for Meetings Held in the Course of Preparations for and During the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union in the Second Half of 2011</td>
<td>21 January 2011 (CEA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information on Co-operation with the European Parliament – Preparations for the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union</td>
<td>22 March 2011 (CEA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rules of Amending the Calendar of the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union in the Second Half of 2011</td>
<td>1 April 2011 (CEA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information on the Interpreting of Ministerial Speeches in the European Parliament during the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union</td>
<td>1 April 2011 (CEA)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Department of Co-ordinating Preparations and Support for the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union (following the merger of the Office for the Committee of European Integration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs renamed the Department of Co-ordinating the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union, DCP) was the organisational unit commissioned with co-ordination of all organisational activities forming part of the preparations for the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union. The Department's tasks included the following: drafting and implementing strategies of preparations for the Presidency, including a definition of a co-operation model for all administrative agencies involved; drafting and supervising the implementation of the multiannual financial programme; drafting and updating the calendar of meetings planned as part of the Polish Presidency; drafting the logistics of all key national meetings; or organising training sessions for Presidency corps members; handling information and promotion campaigns.

The Department of Analyses and Strategies (following the merger of the Office for the Committee of European Integration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs renamed the Department of Economic Policy, DEP) was the organisational unit responsible for co-ordinating all programme-related preparations.

The co-ordination of preparations for the Presidency in the field of co-operating with the European Parliament, including co-ordination of the work of liaison officers responsible for co-operating with the Plenipotentiary with regard to all EP-related matters, was entrusted to the Secretariat of the Minister – Section for Supporting the Chairman of the Committee for European Affairs.

### 1.3.2. Units Involved Domestically

Interdisciplinary teams appointed by virtue of the Plenipotentiary’s decision of September 9th 2008 notwithstanding, individual ministries operated in-house structures for co-ordinating all activities at the given agency relating to preparations for the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union. The structures have been listed in Table 2.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Document</th>
<th>Adoption/Assessment Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annex to the Security Programme for Meetings Held in the Course of Preparations for and Duration of the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union in the Second Half of 2011 – Fire Security Concept for Ministerial Meetings</td>
<td>19 April 2011 (CEA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funds Allocation for Purposes of Additional Remuneration of Presidency Corps Members and Other Individuals Participating in the Preparations for and Duration of the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union in the Second Half of 2011</td>
<td>10 May 2011 (CEA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information on Ministers Presenting the Presidency Programme to European Parliament Committees in July 2011</td>
<td>17 May 2011 (CEA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calendar of the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union 2011</td>
<td>24 May 2011 (CEA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Draft List of Working Groups Officially Organised in Poland as Part of the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union</td>
<td>7 June 2011 (CEA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tentative Agendas for Sessions of Individual Council Formations under the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union</td>
<td>28 June 2011 (CEA)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### 1.3. Structures involved

Table 2. Ministerial/Agency Teams Appointed for Preparations for the Presidency

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Authority</th>
<th>Name of Team/Structure</th>
<th>Date of Appointment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chancellery of the President of the Council of Ministers</td>
<td>Team for Preparing the Chancellery of the President of the Council of Ministers for Activities Relating to the Preparation of the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union</td>
<td>8 September 2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Economy</td>
<td>The Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union Programme Team; as of November 2009: Steering Committee, Project Team, and four Task Forces forming part of the Polish Presidency of the European Union at the Ministry of Economy Project</td>
<td>23 August 2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Infrastructure</td>
<td>Team for Preparing the Ministry of Infrastructure for Activities Relating to the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union in the Second Half of 2011</td>
<td>28 November 2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Culture and National Heritage</td>
<td>The Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union Team</td>
<td>29 April 2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Science and Higher Education</td>
<td>The Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union Team</td>
<td>4 April 2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Agricultural and Rural Development</td>
<td>Team for Co-ordination of Preparing the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and Units Reporting to the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development for Activities Relating to the Assumption of Presidency of the European Union Council by Poland</td>
<td>3 October 2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Regional Development</td>
<td>Project Team for the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union</td>
<td>21 October 2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Justice</td>
<td>Team for Co-ordination of Preparing the Ministry of Justice for Activities Relating to the Assumption of Presidency of the European Union Council by Poland in 2011</td>
<td>1 September 2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Interior and Administration</td>
<td>Team for Preparing the Ministry of Interior and Administration for Activities Relating to the Republic of Poland’s Presidency of the European Union Council</td>
<td>10 October 2008</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
For day-to-day co-ordination and working co-operation, a list of contact officers was drafted – persons responsible for liaising with the Plenipotentiary’s support agency and for co-ordinating the information flow at individual government administration agencies. Thus, the traditional information flow (hard copy) was successfully boosted and accelerated, albeit not fully replaced, by correspondence in electronic format and over the telephone. Moreover, regular meetings of liaison officers with co-ordination department staff were organised at the stage of preparations for the Presidency.

For monitoring the progress of preparatory works at all participant authorities, questionnaire studies were held to draw conclusions and recommendations for further activities.

The purpose of the first study organised by the Office for the Committee of European Integration in May 2008 was to obtain information on the initial level of government agency awareness of the upcoming Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union. The questionnaire form included seven questions, each supplemented with additional detailed sub-items. A total of twenty-seven ministries and central authorities were included in the study.

The ‘Report on Progress in Preparing Public Administration for the Presidency of the European Union Council in the Second Half of 2011’, drafted on basis of the responses provided, was approved by the European Committee of the Council of Ministers on 15 July 2008. Among others, it contained conclusions and recommendations on the document flow, progress in preparation, use of experience of other European Union Member States, staff training and motivation, funding, and the suggested schedule of tasks the implementation of which was recognised as a priority at the time.

To verify results achieved within a term of one year as of the date of Report approval, the Plenipotentiary addressed public administration agencies involved in preparatory work with another edition of the questionnaire. A form containing sixteen questions grouped into four categories (progress of preparatory work, co-ordination and flow of information, international co-operation, and human resources and staff preparation) was dispatched to forty-six agencies, including the Chancellery of the Sejm (Lower House of the Polish Parliament), Chancellery of the Senate, Chancellery of the President of the Council of Ministers, ministries, and central authorities.

Study results revealed information proving profound discrepancies in the state of knowledge and preparation...
along the line of ministries and their reporting units as well as between individual ministries. All responses obtained, conclusions and recommendations drafted on the basis thereof, and a summary of horizontal activities completed by the Office for the Committee of European Integration have been described in a document entitled ‘Review of Progress in Preparing Public Administration for the Presidency of the European Union Council in the Second Half of 2011’ approved by the European Committee of the Council of Ministers on 24 November 2009. It contained recommendations concerning preparatory works monitoring the drafting of a crisis procedures manual, classified information flow, solutions in the area of regulating liabilities relating to the employment of individuals involved in preparations and support of presidency, co-ordination and flow of information, and international co-operation.

In 2009, following a motion of the President of the Council of Ministers and an initiative of the Government Plenipotentiary for the Preparation of Governmental Administrative Agencies and Poland’s Presidency of the Council of the European Union, an audit was held at ministries, central authorities, and their reporting units (‘Progress in Preparing the Public Finances Sector for Poland’s Presidency of the European Union Council’ in 2011). The purpose of the audit was to assess the effectiveness, rationality, and cohesion of preparations for the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union in 2011.

Results of the study enabled an identification of potential preparatory work-related risk areas. Furthermore, they provided an opportunity to obtain information from participant agencies as to any suggestions concerning improvements to the process, and/or to the effectiveness, rationality, and/or cohesion of preparatory work at the level of individual agencies, ministries, and the public administration as such. The audit also allowed for good practices to be identified and recommended for universal application.

The internal audit as commissioned, following preparatory works by the Office for the Committee of European Integration, the Chancellery of the President of Council of Ministers, and Ministry of Finance, took place during the period of 26 October 2009 through 31 December 2009.

On the basis of audit results, the Office for the Committee of European Integration drafted a document entitled ‘Map of Risks Related to the Preparation and Support for the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union’. The document outlined problem areas and potential irregularities in the field of preparatory works, potential risks related to preparations and support for the presidency, suggestions for the improvement of the preparatory work process, and good practice recommendations. Key potential problems chiefly included the following: information flow irregularities, staff attrition in the Presidency Corps, staff shortages, shortage of funds for events planned, inefficient use of the experience of former presidencies, and the risk of insufficient co-operation with Poland’s predecessor – Hungary. The document was discussed by the Committee for European Affairs during its session of 23 February 2010. To follow up on a commitment approved in the course thereof, another document was drafted, describing potential risk factors omitted by results of the audit approved by the CEA on 22 June 2010.

In 2010, the Supreme Audit Office audited activities completed in the process of preparing government administrative agencies for Poland’s Presidency of the European Union Council.

The purpose of the audit was to assess the regularity of activities of government administrative agencies responsible for preparatory tasks defined in Programme of Preparing the Republic of Poland for the Presidency of the European Union Council. The key purpose of the audit was to assess whether:

- The Government Plenipotentiary for the Preparation of Governmental Administrative Agencies and Poland’s Presidency of the Council of the European Union, and administrative agency managers acted correctly in planning tasks required to prepare Poland for the Presidency of the European Union Council,
- The Government Plenipotentiary and administrative agency managers acted correctly in performing and monitoring activities required to prepare Poland for the Presidency of the European Union Council.

The Supreme Audit Office audit included the following areas of preparation: programming activities of the European Union Council; logistic aspects of holding the presidency and preparation of individuals involved in the process of preparing the Republic of Poland for the Presidency of the European Union Council (the so-called Presidency Corps).

The Chancellery of the President of the Council of Ministers, the Ministry of Interior and Administration, the Ministry of Finance, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs were audited. Two simultaneous audits were held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; one focusing on the responsibilities of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and the other – on the performance of tasks assigned to the Government Plenipotentiary for the Preparation of Governmental Administrative Agencies and Poland’s Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

The Supreme Audit Office included the period of 15 July 2008 through 4 October 2010 in their audit. Actual audit
activities were held during the period of 14 July 2010 through 27 October 2010.

The Supreme Audit Office announced results of the audit of preparation for the Polish Presidency on 21 February 2011. The Supreme Audit Office was positive in the assessment of government administrative agency preparation for the performance of Polish Presidency-related tasks. According to the Supreme Audit Office, the government planned Presidency-related tasks correctly, with their implementation regular, and is skilled in using the experience of former European Union Council presidencies.

Moreover, the Government Plenipotentiary for the Preparation of Governmental Administrative Agencies and Poland’s Presidency of the Council of the European Union and the Governmental Plenipotentiary for Security in the Preparations for and Duration of Poland’s Presidency of the European Union Council in 2011 were reporting to the European Committee of the Council of Ministers (later renamed the Committee for European Affairs) and the Council of Ministers on a quarterly basis. The Ministry of Culture and National Heritage drafted cultural programme reports. A list of all documents drafted has been shown in Table 3.

Table 3. Reports

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Document Name</th>
<th>Adoption/Assessment Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Progress of Works Relating to the Cultural Programme of the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union in the Second Half of 2011 in European (Brussels Excepted) and Non-European Capital Cities</td>
<td>12 February 2010 (CEA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annex to the Map of Risks Relating to the Preparation and Support for Polish Presidency of the EU Council</td>
<td>22 June 2010 (CEA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preparing Poland for Presidency of the EU Council – Information on the Plenipotentiary’s Activities in the 2nd Quarter of 2010</td>
<td>30 July 2010 (CEA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Report of the Minister of Culture and National Heritage for the 3rd Quarter of 2010 – Works Relating to the Cultural Programme of the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union in 2011</td>
<td>26 October 2010 (CEA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preparing Poland for Presidency of the EU Council – Information on the Plenipotentiary’s Activities in the 3rd Quarter of 2010</td>
<td>5 November 2010 (CEA)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1.3. Structures involved

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Document Name</th>
<th>Adoption/Assessment Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Preparing Poland for Presidency of the EU Council – Information on the</td>
<td>28 January 2011 (CEA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plenipotentiary’s Activities in the 4th Quarter of 2010</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Report of the Minister of Culture and National Heritage for the 4th Quarter</td>
<td>11 February 2011 (CEA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of 2010 – Works Relating to the Cultural Programme of the Polish Presidency</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of the European Union in 2011</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action Report by the Governmental Plenipotentiary for Security in the</td>
<td>19 April 2011 (CEA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preparations for and Duration of Poland’s Presidency of the European Union</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>in Council in 2011 (January 1st through March 31st 2011)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preparing Poland for Presidency of the EU Council – Information on the</td>
<td>10 May 2011 (CEA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plenipotentiary’s Activities in the 1st Quarter of 2011</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preparing Poland for Presidency of the EU Council – Information on the</td>
<td>28 June 2011 (CEA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plenipotentiary’s Activities in the 2nd Quarter of 2011</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Report of the Minister of Culture and National Heritage for the 2nd Quarter</td>
<td>10 October 2011 (CEA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of 2011 – Works Relating to the Cultural Programme of the Polish Presidency</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>of the European Union in 2011</td>
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</table>

Moreover, the European Committee of the Council of Ministers, later renamed the Committee for European Affairs, were since September 2008 presented with day-to-day information describing the current state of preparations in areas of the budget, logistics, information and promotion, and human resources. Comprehensive reports were also drafted for the Sejm and Senate of the Republic of Poland.

Co-operation with local authorities and field administrative agencies was a crucial component of preparation for Polish Presidency and its support. In case of meetings held centrally, co-operation with representatives of voivodship, local speakers’, and municipal authorities (in their respective areas of competency) was the responsibility of the Plenipotentiary’s support authority. In case of all other events, the component of regional partner co-operation was the responsibility of the authority organising the meeting.

According to the organisational concept adopted, each voivodship appointed a plenipotentiary commissioned with the co-ordination of activities relating to Presidency preparation in the region. Co-operation focused on security-related matters, the use of public space for purposes tied in with organising Presidency events, and the organisation of cultural and artistic programmes and programmes for accompanying persons.

Furthermore, five voivodships housing central Polish Presidency conference venues (Lower Silesian, Masovian, Lesser Poland, Pomeranian, and Greater Poland voivodships) appointed Voivodship Security Teams for Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

The Ministry of Interior and Administration established close co-operation in areas of crime prevention, medical services, and fire security with local police, border guard, and health care units. Internal Security Agency sections also took part in security-related activities.

For security purposes at class one and two meetings, the Government Protection Bureau provided solutions to secure persons, facilities and equipment, identify, analyse, and prevent risks, co-ordinate security activities, and ensure personal protection.

Chief activities of the police as the lead service in providing security at class three and four meetings included the following: prevention and operational security (buildings and persons), pyrotechnical control and security (meeting venues and Presidency fleet vehicles), fencing grid design, traffic control in the vicinity of meeting venues, escorting vehicles used by heads of delegations (ministers or equivalents), drafting and preparing evacuation procedures for Presidency meeting venues.

The State Fire Protection Service was entrusted in particular with the surveillance of venues used for purposes of key Polish Presidency meetings, and fire protection-related agreements with the owners, administrators, and managers of such venues. Moreover, the State Fire Protection Service provided support to the police in the area of chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear threat prevention.

Key Border Guard activities in securing Presidency meetings included security measures at airport border crossings, passport and visa control included, as well as security measures in predefined areas surrounding...
marine harbours and along the coastline seafront, in the immediate vicinity of meeting venues.

Matters concerning the identification and prevention of threat to state security were handled by the Internal Security Agency, Intelligence Agency, and the military Counterintelligence Service.

Medical services were provided to a total of forty-nine class one, two, and three meetings.

1.3.2.1. Crisis Management

An analysis of previous presidencies commissioned at the introductory stage of crisis management preparations in the course of Polish Presidency revealed that European Union crisis management activities constitute approximately ten per cent of EU work in the course of any presidency. Moreover, it was symptomatic how frequently the skill of efficient reaction to crisis threat becomes an important of not most spectacular criterion of assessing the quality of preparation for any presidency. This is precisely why crisis management-related preparations (technical and organisational/logistic practicalities apart) have since day one formed part of mainstream preparations for the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union. In light of the probable Lisbon Treaty enactment, major attention was given to concepts of organisational changes to European Union crisis management structures.

It was concluded that proper preparation for effective crisis management during Polish Presidency shall require knowledge of crisis management experience and technique available to representatives of the so-called old European Union Member States, who had been acting Presidents of the European Union many times in the past. Regardless, DCP management and staff as well as representatives of the Operations Centre of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (OC/MFA) participated in meetings with ‘new’ Member State officials who had been involved in the preparation of their own countries for Presidency in the years 2009-2011. The first group of countries included i.a. Germany, France, and Spain, the other – Slovenia, the Czech Republic, and Hungary.

Intense contacts with representatives of the more experienced European Union Member States, expanded to include consultations with the General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union (GS CEU) and the European Commission at early stages of preparatory works already only served to confirm the necessity of assigning high priority to crisis management problems in the process of preparing Poland for European Union presidency. The suspension of natural gas deliveries to the Ukraine during the Czech Presidency, and the earthquakes in Haiti and the explosion of the Icelandic Eyjafjallajökull volcano under the Spanish Presidency were ample proof that unpredictable human action or natural disasters may cause serious turbulence to the working of the entire European Union, complicating Presidency-related processes even further.

Following intense talks and earlier contact with representatives of European Union institutions and Member States, an international ‘Crisis Management in Times of Presidency’ was organised (14 and 15 December 2009). It provided representatives of institutions concerned with a full grasp of the importance of related issues, and with knowledge on European Union crisis management conditions and standards. All presentations and debates focused on political matters, presidency reactions to political crises and natural disasters, and changes stemming from the enactment of the Lisbon Treaty. Seminar attendees discussed major aspects of crisis communication and information flow co-ordination, as well as the practical aspects of presidency reactions to assorted forms of crisis.

To make crisis management preparations more expedient, an expert opinion was drafted: ‘Crisis Management and Crisis Reaction in the Context of the Polish Presidency of the European Union. Description of Mechanisms Available to the Presidency in Circumstances of Crisis, and a Case Study of the Presidency’s Reaction to Political Crisis’.

Crisis management issues were recognised as crucial in the ‘Guidelines for Diplomatic Posts of the Republic of Poland for Purposes of the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union (1 July – 31 December 2011)’. The topic was presented to heads of Polish diplomatic posts during the Polish ambassadors’ debate.

In co-operation with the Government Security Centre, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs launched an initiative to draft standard operating procedures for purposes of designing a crisis management procedure adapted to specific Ministry of Foreign Affairs needs under conditions of the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union: ‘Path of Internal Action at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for Purposes of Monitoring, Notification, and Decision-Making Procedures in the Crisis Management Area during the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union’.

1.3.3. Involvement of Diplomatic Missions

The functioning of the Polish Presidency, preparations included, involved the work of Polish diplomatic missions around the globe: embassies, permanent representations, consulates, and Polish institutes. Some promoted Poland and the Polish Presidency as part of their regular duties, while others were entrusted with activities strictly relating
1.3. Structures involved

to the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union, as part of a number of activity areas.

Many diplomatic posts were commissioned to organise events planned outside Poland, and to support ministries in the organisation of meetings abroad. Therefore, throughout 2011, diplomatic posts engaged in intense preparation chiefly focusing on organisation and logistics, whereas in the second half of 2011 they implemented all events planned, co-ordinating their work with European Union Delegations at their respective locations. On the enactment of the Treaty of Lisbon, EU Delegations assumed the lead as agencies responsible for co-ordinating EU foreign policy in third countries. Meetings were organised in a variety of formats: conferences, seminars, working group sessions, ministerial forums, technical consultation groups, councils, workshops, and many others, as well as numerous accompanying events.

Public diplomacy and culture were crucial to the activities of Polish foreign missions. The fundamental purpose of all related activities was to strengthen the political message of the Polish Presidency, and to promote a positive image of Poland (more on the topic in section 2.5.11., ‘Foreign Cultural Programme of the Polish Presidency 2011’).

Another crucial area of activity involved the role entrusted to selected missions (European Union representations) responsible for preparing and chairing regular meetings. These were primarily sessions of Heads of local Missions (HoMs), but also meetings convened at varying levels to discuss political, economic, consular, visa-related, and cultural missions (more on the topic in section 1.5.2.3., ‘Co-operation in Third Countries’).

1.3.4. Role and Responsibilities of the Permanent Representation in Brussels

For the purposes of the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union, a special role was assigned to the Permanent Representation of the Republic of Poland to the European Union (Permanent Representation of the Republic of Poland to the European Union – PR of RP/EU). The PR was the acting co-ordinator for cooperation between government agencies of the country of the Presidency and European Union institutions; its role was crucial in terms of providing support to preparatory bodies of the European Union Council, and consisted in the management of works engaged in by COREPER II and COREPER I, working groups, and other Council committees. Furthermore, the Polish PR was responsible for the logistical side of organising all Presidency-related works in Brussels: drafting working group session calendar, preparing conferences and seminars, and distributing promotional materials relating to the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union. Other important tasks assigned to the Permanent Representation included regular contact with European media.

On 23 May 2011, the new venue of the Permanent Representation of the Republic of Poland to the European Union was officially opened, with the opening ceremony attended by Poland’s Prime Minister Donald Tusk, President of the European Parliament Jerzy Buzek, President of the European Council Herman Van Rompuy, and President of the European Commission José Manuel Barroso.

1.3.4.1. Meeting Planning Co-ordinator (MPC)

In light of the extensive scope of tasks assigned to the Polish PR (preparations for and co-ordination of the Polish Presidency in Brussels), a co-ordinating team was established: the Meeting Planning Coordinator, or MPC. The MPC’s duties included the drafting and updating of working group session calendar, support for working group and sector-focusing council sessions, securing interpreting services required, co-ordinating co-operation with the DG SCIC (Directorate General for Interpretation), co-operating with General Secretariats of the European Union Council and European Commission, and securing the logistics and finance-related activities of the Presidency.

To the end of adopting good practices for drafting working group session calendar, planning budget and expense schedules and providing logistical support required by the presidency, the MPC contacted co-ordinators of the Hungarian, Belgian, and Spanish presidencies, and organised a series of meetings with the staff of the General Secretariat of the European Union Council. Practicalities were discussed, such as Presidency calendar management, procedures of ordering catering and other services, distribution of souvenirs to delegates, venue decoration, and financial accounting.

Furthermore, the MPC supervised works to draft a set of In-house Guidelines, outlining good practices for working group session planning, organising preparatory meetings of the Council of the European Union, and other working group session-related procedures. The Guidelines were to be delivered to chairpersons of working groups and other staff involved in supporting the Council’s preparatory bodies, and presented to chairpersons and their deputies in the course of workshops organised by the MPC Team in Warsaw (April 2011) and Brussels.

To ensure efficient communication with a team of more than two hundred chairpersons and their deputies in Poland and at the PR, a dedicated database and email network was set up.
1.4. Co-ordination and decision making during the Polish Presidency, preparation stage included

1.4.1. Review and Counselling Teams

The teams were responsible for supporting the Plenipotentiary in matters technical and of merit at the stages of preparing for the Presidency and taking office. They drafted guidelines and recommendations in their respective specialty areas, and participated in the process of drafting the Plenipotentiary’s documents filed for approval with the Committee for European Affairs (formerly known as the European Committee of the Council of Ministers) and the Council of Ministers.

By virtue of the Plenipotentiary’s decision of 9 September 2008 on appointing interdisciplinary counselling teams, teams specialising in the following areas were established: budget affairs, logistics and security, promotion and culture, and human resources management.

An interdisciplinary counselling team (Polish Presidency Programming Team) was appointed by virtue of the Plenipotentiary’s decision of 9 April 2010 for supporting the Plenipotentiary in the Presidency’s programme-related preparation. The team’s chief responsibility involved the drafting of guidelines and recommendations in programme-related preparation (including the Presidency priorities list, the ‘Six-Month Programme of the Polish Presidency, contributions to the Eighteen-Month Programme of the Poland-Denmark-Cyprus Trio’, programme summaries, sector-based priorities, sector-focusing Council agendas, comments to the European Parliament’s programme document outlining the priorities dossier for the EP work agenda under the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union). Moreover, the team facilitated information exchange between individual ministries at the preparations stage, and served as a forum for a tentative accord with regard to programme-related aspects prior to CEA’s formal decisions. Team co-ordinators included representatives of ministries and relevant central agencies. In the case of the budget, promotion and culture, and human resources teams, they were representatives of the Office for the Committee of European Integration, later of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. A representative of the Ministry of Interior and Administration, later replaced by a Ministry of Foreign Affairs staff member, was the co-ordinator for the logistics and security team; the programming team was co-ordinated by a Ministry of Foreign Affairs representative.

Team members were seconded by individual ministries and agencies as stipulated in appointment decisions, in conformity to need and in-house assessment. Given the need to ensure high functionality of all teams and their operational efficiency, not all ministries and agencies taking part in preparations for the Polish Presidency were invited to join the teams. Nonetheless, in order to ensure proper representativeness of all activities, the Plenipotentiary agreed to expand the teams to include representatives of ministries or other agencies expressing such a will. In light of the counselling role of the teams and their flexible structure, no rules of procedure applied.

Permanent members apart, meetings were attended by observers, usually representatives of ministries or agencies concerned with the issue on the team’s current agenda. Furthermore, meetings were attended by experts invited from a variety of institutions, representatives of Chancelleries of the Polish Sejm and Senate included. The Plenipotentiary’s support agency staff also took part in the teams’ work, depending on their respective fields of responsibilities and competencies.

Team support was provided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs’ Department of Co-ordinating the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union (formerly the Department of Co-ordinating Preparations and Support for the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union at the Office for the Committee of European Integration), and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs’ Department of Economic Policy (programme team). The Department set up a working database of team session participants, and was responsible for co-ordinating all communication with them. Team communication took place during sessions and by email. Information on all team meetings held (meeting agendas and memos) was also made available to Presidency Corps members – Extranet users at: https://extranet.prezydencjaue.gov.pl, and sent by email to ministries and agencies on demand.

Since competencies concerning meeting security were assigned to the Ministry of Interior and Administration, and in light of that Ministry appointing a dedicated team responsible for the drafting and implementing of security measures for the term of the Polish Presidency, the role of the logistics and security team was restricted.

Information on team work results was contained in memos describing individual team activities, as well as in documents reporting on the Plenipotentiary’s work (including day-to-day information and the Plenipotentiary’s quarterly reports on Polish preparations for the Presidency of the Council of the European Union, presented to ECCM and CEA meetings). The number of review and counselling team meetings is shown in the table below.
1.4. Co-ordination and decision making during the Polish Presidency, preparation stage included

1.4.2. Interdisciplinary Co-ordination

1.4.2.1. European Committee of the Council of Ministers (ECCM)

All government agency activities to prepare for the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union in the second half of 2011 took place within the framework of the operational system of European policy co-ordination.

In conformity to the Prime Minister’ Ordinance No. 30 of 23 March 2004 (Polish Monitor 2004 No. 14 item 223, as amended), the European Committee of the Council of Ministers was the authority responsible for review, counselling, and support to the Council of Ministers and the Prime Minister in the field of the Polish Presidency.

The ECCM was an operational decision-making body serving as a forum to agree and pass decisions, and to resolve most issues relating to the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union. As stipulated in the aforementioned ordinance, the ECCM reviewed (among others) ‘analyses, assessments, and documents describing the preparation of government agencies for the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union’.

The process of preparing for the Polish Presidency involved a number of areas, and was an extremely complex and dynamic process requiring excellent co-ordination, with the ECCM assigned a key role therein. ECCM meetings regularly approved documents relating to preparations for the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union, debated subsequent preparation stages, and outlined tasks for implementation. Additionally, the ECCM served as a forum for the permanent exchange of information concerning preparations for the Polish Presidency.

At a session on 31 July 2007, the ECCM adopted the ‘Assumptions to Government Agency Preparation for the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union in the Second Half of 2011’, thus launching their forum of the formal process of preparing for the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union. The document outlined information concerning activities to be completed as part of the preparations for the Polish Presidency, and summarised the experience of former presidencies.

Studies held at government agencies yielded the ‘Report on Progress in Preparing Public Administration for the Presidency of the European Union Council in the Second Half of 2011’, approved by the ECCM meeting of 15 July 2008 following discussion. At the meeting, the Committee placed a requirement on ministries and central agencies to complete their duties as listed in the Report.

Another crucial item on the Committee’s agenda with regard to preparations for the Polish Presidency of the EU Council was that of ECCM adopting on 28 October 2008 the ‘Programme of Preparing the Republic of Poland for the Presidency of the European Union Council’, as submitted by the Government Plenipotentiary for the Preparation of Governmental Administrative Agencies and Poland’s Presidency of the Council of the European Union. The ‘programme’ was recognised as a formal basis for all activities targeting efficient preparation for the Polish Presidency, and outlined all indispensable administrative agency duties in a variety of areas of preparation: logistics, human resources management, information and promotion, and programming, tasks schedule included. The document was recommended for review to the Council of Ministers.

Once the Programme and its performance progress were approved, the ECCM regularly reviewed documents describing the process of making the Programme operational, i.e. action taken with regard to budgeting, programming, and information/promotion. Regular progress monitoring involved four quarterly progress report presentations to ECCM meetings with regard to preparations.

### Table 4. Meetings of the Plenipotentiary’s Review and Counselling Teams

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Team</th>
<th>Number of Meetings, 2008-2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Presidency Programme Team</td>
<td>18 meetings (2010-2011)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Budget Affairs Team</td>
<td>40 meetings (2008-2012)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Logistics and Security Team</td>
<td>12 meetings (2008-2010)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promotion and Culture Team</td>
<td>14 meetings (2008-2010)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Resources Management Team</td>
<td>17 meetings (2008-2011)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total: 2008-2012</strong></td>
<td><strong>101 meetings</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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13 As the Ministry of Interior appointed a separate team for the drafting and implementing of security measures for the term of the Polish Presidency, the last logistics and security team meeting was held in July 2010.

14 Outside meetings, all teams also proceeded to resolve day-to-day matters in circulation.

15 A set of documents describing the process of preparing for Poland’s Presidency of the Council of the European Union in the second half of 2011 and discussed at ECCM and CEA meetings has been annexed to the Report.

ECCM meetings decided and resolved as to the co-ordination and implementation of tasks planned as part of programme preparation for Poland’s Presidency of the Council of the European Union, as well as to the choice of Poland’s sector- and Presidency-related priorities.

The ECCM meeting of 28 November 2008 approved a document entitled ‘Information on Services Provided to Preparation Agencies of the European Union Council – Defining the Polish Presidency 2011 Model’, defining the Polish Presidency model as ‘mixed’, to be co-managed from Poland and Brussels.

On 21 July 2009, the ECCM approved a package of programme documents, including papers on the methodology of selecting priorities and programming works for the Polish Presidency. Furthermore, a works calendar for the Poland-Denmark-Cyprus Trio was adopted, as were guidelines for ministries with regard to the drafting of a review of policy issues potentially crucial to the European Union agenda under the Polish Presidency in 2011. Ministries were given a requirement to present the Plenipotentiary with results of the review (a so-called inventory) in the form of a table and memos describing each and every policy area.

In a document entitled ‘Criteria of Defining Sector-Related Priorities of the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union’ adopted on 22 September 2009, the Committee approved all related guidelines. The ‘Criteria’ were then recommended for review by the Council of Ministers.

An updated proposal of the Polish Presidency priorities was finally approved at the ECCM meeting of 16 October 2009, and recommended for review by the Council of Ministers.

Guidelines determining ministerial duties with regard to the inventory of policy issues potentially forming part of the European Union agenda under the Polish Presidency were outlined in a document entitled ‘Priorities and Programming of the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union in 2011 – Operational Aspects’, adopted by the ECCM on 21 July 2009. In October and November 2009, feedback from ministries and central agencies was used to draft the ‘Information on Policy Issues for the Second Half of the 2011’, reviewed by an ECCM meeting on 1 December 2009. Moreover, the Committee placed a requirement on all ministries to update the inventory of policy issues after the European Commission’s ‘Action Plan 2010-2014’ had been published.

Furthermore, the ECCM handled work concerning the co-ordination of the content of the Presidency’s cultural programme. On 28 August 2009, ‘Strategic Assumptions to the Cultural Programme of the Polish Presidency in the Second Half of 2011’ were adopted, whereas on 10 October 2009 ten capital cities were selected for the Presidency’s cultural programme abroad. The Ministry of Culture and National Heritage – the entity responsible for the special activity of drafting and implementing the Presidency’s cultural programme – reported on its progress on a regular basis.

The ECCM was also important to the co-ordination and implementation of activities relating to the Presidency’s logistics. Key challenges at the time included the drafting of a calendar of meetings and events planned for the second half of 2011. A tentative calendar for the Polish Presidency drafted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the basis of applications filed by ministries and central agencies was presented to ECCM meetings on 8 September and 27 October 2009.

Ensuring proper funding of all activities was crucial for the efficient and timely completion of all tasks relating to Poland’s Presidency of the Council of the European Union in the second half of 2011; thus, at the session of 9 June 2009, the ECCM approved a multiannual programme: ‘Preparation, Support, and Duration of the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union in the Second Half of 2011’. The multiannual programme involved a comprehensive inventory of all costs budgeted for the Polish Presidency, i.e. expenses co-ordinated centrally by the Plenipotentiary as well as expenses incurred by the participation of ministries and central agencies in the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union, preparations included. On 30 October 2009, the multiannual programme was amended. All documents listed were recommended for review by the permanent Committee of the Council of Ministers.

Furthermore, on 22 December 2009 the ECCM approved an executive document to the multiannual programme aimed at determining rules for spending funds, and of setting up a reporting system. In consequence, all institutions benefitting from the multiannual programme as fund users were made part of a uniform system of rules ensuring the efficient and transparent management of Presidency-allocated finance.

In light of the 2009 efforts to attract partners for the purpose of Poland’s Presidency, organisational matters included, on 21 July 2009 the ECCM approved a ‘Good Practices Catalogue. Guidelines to Partnership Contracts with Businesses Operating to Support the Organisation of the Polish Presidency’. The document outlined the rules of the public administration’s co-operation with the private sector, in particular with regard to the principles of private businesses providing free-of-charge products or services to support the Polish Presidency.

Within the framework of co-ordinating government agency work in the field of training and qualifications to improve government staff and other civil servants for duties to be performed under the Polish Presidency of the Council
of the European Union, training guidelines were drafted, and application limits introduced for the centrally trained Presidency Corps in the first half of 2009.

1.4.2.2. Committee for European Affairs (CEA)

As of 1 January 2010, upon the enactment of the Committee for European Affairs Act of 27 August 2009 all activities relating to preparations for the Polish Presidency were assumed by the newly formed Committee17.

Preparations for CEA sessions were handled by the CEA Preparatory Team18, who consulted comments to CEA documents and recommended appropriate decisions to the Committee. The monitoring and communication mechanisms created within the system guaranteed day-to-day information exchange on the form and progress of tasks, and risks relating to the process of preparing for the Polish Presidency. This became particularly important as of early 2010, when work in the area became considerably more intense.

The regular monitoring of progress in preparations for the Polish Presidency involved four presentations of the status quo of preparations for Poland’s Presidency of the Council of the European Union to CEA meetings (8 June and 30 July 2010, and 28 January and 10 May 2011). Moreover, on 28 June and 21 November 2011, the CEA approved the information on activities of the Government Plenipotentiary for the Preparation of Governmental Administrative Agencies and Poland’s Presidency of the Council of the European Union for the 2nd and 3rd quarters of 2011. All the aforementioned documents were recommended for review by the Council of Ministers.

An audit held at all ministries and central agencies in the 4th quarter of 2009 yielded a document outlining a map of risks relating to the process of preparing for the Polish Presidency, discussed at an CEA meeting (in the presence of Directors General of the Committee’s member institutions) on 23 February 2010. The document outlined problem areas and potential irregularities in preparatory works, potential risks related to preparations and support for the Presidency, suggestions for the improvement of the preparatory work process, and good practice recommendations.

To follow up on the commitment of the February meeting, another document was drafted (describing potential risk factors omitted by results of the audit), and approved by the CEA on 22 June 2010.

To ensure proper co-ordination and implementation of duties involved in the drafting of a programme for the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union, as well as of efforts to select Poland’s sector- and Presidency-related priorities, the CEA took intense action from early 2010 in drafting a list of Presidency priorities (general and sector-related) in individual European Union Council configurations.

The Government Plenipotentiary’s paper of 17 February 2010 (’Calendar of Sector-Related Priority Presentations to the CEA’, 1st Quarter of 2010) defined March 2010 as the date of sector-related priority presentation by individual ministries and agencies.

At an CEA meeting on 2 March 2010, the already drafted sector-related priorities of the Polish Presidency were discussed in the context of the specificity of European Union Council configurations. By the end of May 2010, priorities planned to be presented at the following forums were agreed:

- Economic and Financial Affairs Council (CEA 2 March 2010),
- Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council (CEA 9/19 March 2010, and 13 April 2010),
- Environment Council (CEA 9 March 2010),
- Agriculture and Fisheries Council (CEA 12 March 2010),
- Competitiveness Council (CEA 20 April 2010 and 13 May 2010),
- Justice and Home Affairs Council (CEA 19 March 2010),
- Employment, Social Policy, Health, and Consumer Affairs Council (CEA 26 March 2010),
- Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council (CEA 20 April 2010),
- General Affairs Council (CEA 23 April 2010),
- Foreign Affairs Council19 (CEA 28 May 2010).

At an CEA meeting of 7 May 2010 attended by Catherine Day, Secretary General of the European Commission, CEA members discussed the European Commission’s 2010 priorities in the context of future Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

2 July 2010: the CEA adopted the ‘Draft List of Priority Programmes for the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union’. In particular, the document recognised ministerial motions consequent to an analysis of the 2010 European Commission action plan, and an update of the catalogue of policy issues potentially to be made part of the Polish Presidency’s agenda. The document was recommended for review by the Council of Ministers.

13 July 2010: the CEA approved the ‘Programming the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union. Fiche System: Project Overview and Technical

18 Concurrently, the European Committee of the Council of Ministers ceased to exist (dismissed under Ordinance No. 37 of the President of the Council of Ministers of 10 June 2010 (Polish Monitor 2010 No. 44, item 625)).
19 Appointed by virtue of Committee for European Affairs Chairman’s Ordinance No. 1/2010 of 26 November 2010.
20 Including a tentative list of activities, projects, and programmes for implementation as part of the Eastern Partnership.
Specification’ document, outlining the final specification for the system in question.


In recognition of the fact that the European Commission published its 2011 action plan, as of February 2010 ‘Updates of Catalogue of Potential Policy Issues on the Polish Presidency’s Agenda for the Second Half of 2011’ were presented to CEA meetings.

Updates for the following were presented in the order as listed below:

- Economic and Financial Affairs Council (ECOFIN) and Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council (EYCS) – 1 February 2011,
- General Affairs Council (GAC) and Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council (TTE) – 8 February 2011,
- Justice and Home Affairs Council (JHA), Competitiveness Council (COMPET) and Environment Council (ENVI) – 11 February 2011,
- Agriculture and Fisheries Council (AGRI) – 18 February 2011,
- Employment, Social Policy, Health, and Consumer Affairs Council (EPSCO) – 22 February 2011,
- Foreign Affairs Council (FAC) – 5 May 2011.

In June 2011, CEA began accepting programme fiches – the basic operational tool for the Polish Presidency. Each fiche contained strictly defined negotiations guidelines (negotiations margins included) and targets to be achieved on matters debated in the European Union under the Polish Presidency, including the European Parliament-related decision-making process.

The Committee approved the negotiation mandate (fiche items: ‘description of importance to the Polish Presidency and to Poland, Presidency objective / desired result; negotiations margin’). The fiche approval schedule at CEA was as follows: 21 June 2011 – EPSCO, GAC, AGRIFISH, ENVI, programme fiche package concerning the Multiannual Financial Framework23, JHA, ECOFIN; 28 June 2011 – TTE, EYCS, COMPET, FAC.

After CEA had approved the fiches, all ministries and central agencies were ordered to make them part of an on-line system, and to update them as appropriate.

Agreeing the ‘Six-Month Programme of the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union in the Second Half of 2011’ at an CEA meeting on 8 March 2011 was a crucial component of the process of preparing for Poland’s Presidency of the Council of the European Union22. The simple fact of CEA adopting the ‘Programme’ was obviously not tantamount to the close of related works. Given the considerable dynamics of legislative works in the European Union, the CEA approved another two ‘Programme’ updates, on 17 May and 21 June 2011, respectively. All document releases were recommended for review by the Council of Ministers.

Furthermore, CEA continued their work on the coordination and implementation of activities concerning Presidency logistics.

In consequence of the Decision of the European Council of 1 December 2009 adopting its Rules of Procedure23, the necessity arose to reassess and amend the dates of selected meetings to be organised under the Polish Presidency. The reassessment and amendment procedure closed on 12 February 2010 with the CEA approving the updated release of the tentative meetings calendar24.

On 9 March 2010, the CEA approved the ‘Rules of Funding and Organising Meetings Held in Poland during the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union’, whereas on 9 April 2010 the ‘List of Meetings for the Purposes of which Presidency Venues are to be Provided’ was agreed.

Additionally, works to set up a procedure of updating the Presidency Calendar began, with the procedure finally approved by the CEA on 1 April 2011.

On 24 May 2011, the CEA approved the ‘Calendar of the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union 2011’. The ‘Calendar’ specified European Council sessions, formal and informal meetings of the Council of the European Union in a variety of configurations, and informal ministerial meetings. The ‘Calendar’s’ English version was submitted to the Secretary General of the Council of the European Union, and to Member States.

Moreover, on 7 June 2011 the CEA approved a document containing a list of fifteen Working Group meetings to be officially organised in Poland under our Presidency. The list was submitted to the Permanent Representation of the Republic of Poland to the European Union in Brussels for approval by the COREPER.

The final version of the ‘Calendar of the Polish Presidency’ was approved on 28 June 2011.

Furthermore, the CEA handled efforts to introduce appropriate security measures during the term of the Polish Presidency. At a session of 21 January 2011, the ‘Security Programme for Meetings Held in the Course

22 The Eighteen-Month Programme of the Poland-Denmark-Cyprus Trio was approved by the CEA on 14 September 2010.
24 The Presidency Calendar was also regularly consulted with the Permanent Representation of the Republic of Poland to the European Union.
of Preparations for and Duration of the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union in the Second Half of 2011’ was presented alongside the ‘Action Report by the Governmental Plenipotentiary for Security in the Preparations for and Duration of Poland’s Presidency of the European Union Council in 2011 – 2nd Half of 2010’. Four subsequent action reports by the Governmental Plenipotentiary for Security were submitted to Committee members, in April, July, and October 2011, and in January 2012, respectively.

Furthermore, in preparing for the Polish Presidency, the CEA attached great importance to co-operation with the European Parliament.

To ensure proper cohesion and effectiveness of such co-operation, ‘Recommendations for Ministers on Co-operating with the European Parliament during Preparations for and Duration of the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union’ were drafted and approved by the CEA at a meeting of 5 March 2010. Moreover, the CEA placed a requirement on ministries and central agencies to appoint so-called liaison officers to co-operate with the Government Plenipotentiary on all matters related to the European Parliament.

At an CEA meeting on 25 June 2010, co-operation with the EP was discussed in the context of preparing for the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union, the meeting attended by the Secretary General of the European Parliament Klaus Welle.

On 24 May 2011, CEA members attended a consultation meeting with Pierre de Boissieu, Head of Office to the Secretary General of the Council of the European Union, David Harley, former Deputy Secretary General of the European Parliament, and Marek Mora. The meeting focused on EP hearings, and on co-operation of the Presidency with the General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union, and with the European Parliament.

The Committee for European Affairs regularly reviewed and approved the various aspects of administrative agencies’ preparations for the Polish Presidency in the area of co-operating with the European Parliament:

1) Identifying key EP representatives from the viewpoint of sector-related Presidency priorities (9 November 2010),

2) Meetings of top ministerial and central agency representatives with identified key EP representatives (5 November 2010, 9 November 2010, 18 January 2011, 18 February 2011, 1 March 2011, 12 April 2011),

3) Status quo of ministry preparation for visits of EP commissions and EP political groups to Poland, and for the Conference of Presidents of the EP (18 March 2011 and 10 May 2011),

4) Information on ministers presenting the Presidency programme to EP Committees in July 2011 (17 May 2011 and 15 June 2011),

5) Information on agendas of EP plenary sessions under the Polish Presidency as a basis for the planning of ministerial interventions at the EP (19 April 2011),

6) Information on the extent of support offered to Presidency ministers by the EP’s interpreting services for purposes of interventions and meetings at the EP (1 April 2011),


The commencement of the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union in July 2011 required changes to the standard system of European policy co-ordination. CEA’s activity was considerably restricted (committee sessions were suspended for the term of the Presidency), with all documents consulted by correspondence.

During the period, committee works focused primarily on matters concerning Poland’s responsibilities as a Member State, or on the performance of duties stipulated by national legislation (such as acting under the Co-operation Act25).

The majority of CEA competencies relating to co-ordination and decision-making with regard to matters of the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union were for the period assumed by the Support Committee for the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union, whose operations have been described hereinafter. Nonetheless, the CEA was accepting new or updated fiches on a regular basis alongside information on fiches removed from the on-line system (for example when the European Commission did not submit a previously planned draft).

1.4.2.3. Support Committee for the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union – Early Warning and European Dossier Analysis Team

Preparations for the Polish Presidency required a rapid decision with regard to a co-ordination model appropriate for the term of the Presidency itself, enabling swift and timely communication between all participants of the process, and immediate reaction to any crisis situation or to unpredicted circumstances requiring urgent government-level decisions.

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The model used by the Polish administration was designed to ensure operability, decisiveness, and opportunity for immediate political reaction on matters relating to the role of the state presiding over works at the Council of the European Union.

**To the end of achieving all targets planned, a Support Committee for the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union – Early Warning and European Dossier Analysis Team (SCP/EWDAT)** was appointed. The team’s legal ramification was laid out in the following:

» Ordinance of the Prime Minister of 21 June 2011 on the Support Committee for the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union (SCP) (‘Polish Monitor’ No. 53 item 564),

» Council of Ministers’ resolution No. 97 of 14 June 2011 amending the Council of Ministers’ resolution authorising the Committee for European Affairs to assess, resolve, or consult on matters of the Republic of Poland’s European Union membership (‘Polish Monitor’ No. 50, item 554),


Committee membership was assigned as follows:

» Chairman – Secretary for European Affairs (Minister M. Dowgielewicz);

» Deputy Chairman – Minister-Council of Ministers Member (Minister M. Boni);

» Two representatives of the Head of the Chancellery of the Prime Minister;

» One representative each from the Ministries of Economy, Finance, and Interior and Administration;

» Poland’s representative at COREPER II (Ambassador J. Tombiński);

» Poland’s representative at COREPER I (Counsellor – Minister K. Ostrzynekwska).

Representatives of other ministries (secretaries of undersecretaries of state) were also invited to Committee sessions, if matters discussed required their presence.

The SCP’s chief responsibility was to review positions concerning the implementation of the ‘Six-Month Programme of the Polish Presidency’ and programme fiches, and to review organisational and logistics-related issues stemming from the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

The SCP’s Chairman, Minister Mikołaj Dowgielewicz, convoked and chaired Committee meetings, decided as to the final meeting agenda, and outlined duties to be performed by Committee members in recognition of the field represented. Exercising his authority, the Chairman also applied to assorted institutions with requests for assistance in Committee works, and commissioned expert opinions.

Immediately following the close of any SCP meeting, a report of findings was drafted and distributed to all meeting participants upon approval by the Chairman and Secretary; in justified cases, the report was also delivered to other entities.

SCP members, their deputies, SCP’s permanent support staff and their deputies received daily information bulletins drafted at the Permanent Representation of RP/EU, containing lead information on all crucial events in and to the European Union, as well as information bulletins on European Union activities, including materials drafted by the Operations Centre of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Furthermore, SCP members received information on lines to take on crucial matters in case of interest expressed by the media or external partners. Lines to take were delivered in electronic format only.

The SCP met at the Chancellery of the Prime Minister on a regular basis, at least twice a week if possible.

Thirty-seven SCP meetings were held under the Polish Presidency to discuss the most important events on the European agenda during the term of Poland presiding over works of the Council of the European Union, and to resolve issues relating to the Polish Presidency’s operational tactics. The latter focused on circumstances suggesting a grave threat to compromise, a real threat to targets assumed in the Presidency’s programme or in programme fiches, a serious violation of Polish interest, or crisis situations – all in the course of debates at the Council or preparatory bodies’ level.

Furthermore, the Committee decided on negotiation tactics with regard to legislation debated as part of the European agenda at assorted stages of the decision-making process. It also decided on urgent matters, such as the drafting of compromise Presidency proposals on an issue, or ensuring appropriate representation at the nuclear safety group, called ad hoc under the Polish Presidency.

Additionally, the Committee ensured day-to-day monitoring for the preparation, proceedings, and results of the European Council and sector council sessions, as well as of other meetings key to the implementation of the Polish Presidency objectives (primarily including the Eastern Partnership Summit in Warsaw on 29 and 30 September 2011, the Equality Summit in Poznań on 14 and 15 November 2011, and the Durban Climate

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For example, the SCP analysed the course of negotiations concerning the so-called ‘Six-Pack’ (package of five European Union regulations and one directive, introducing stricter public finance discipline to European Union Member States); the draft Integrated Maritime Policy financing regulation; the directive establishing a single European railway area; the regulation of the European Parliament and the Council concerning the placing on the market and use of biocidal products; the draft ‘Connecting Europe Facility’ regulation; the EU Patent Package; the closing of accession negotiations with Croatia; the impact assessment of draft EU legislation; the issue of Romania and Bulgaria joining the Schengen area; or the association agreement with Ukraine.
Conference on 28 November through 11 December 2011).
An analysis of SCP’s operations confirmed that an optimum model of co-ordinating of the Polish Presidency’s activities had been adopted. Joint efforts assured co-operation at different levels of the European decision-making process, while cohesion in the Presidency’s position assured considerable impact on the forming and shaping of the agenda and the programming of compromise-based solutions.

1.4.3. Committee of the Council of Ministers/
Council of Ministers

During preparation for as well as in the term of the Polish Presidency itself, the Committee of the Council of Ministers and the Council of Ministers approved or reviewed numerous Presidency-related documents. Documents approved by the Committee of the Council of Ministers and the Council of Ministers focused on a multitude of aspects, such as programming, logistics, and finance.

Furthermore, the Plenipotentiary for the Preparation of Governmental Administrative Agencies and Poland’s Presidency of the Council of the European Union provided the Council of Ministers with day-to-day information on works in progress. Key documents approved by the Council of Ministers include the following:

» Resolution appointing the Plenipotentiary for the Preparation of Governmental Administrative Agencies and Poland’s Presidency of the Council of the European Union (15 July 2008),
» Programme of Preparing the Republic of Poland for the Presidency of the European Union Council (13 January 2009),
» Council of Ministers’ resolution establishing the multiannual programme: ‘Preparation, Support, and Duration of the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union in the Second Half of 2011’ (23 June 2009), with subsequent amendments,
» Facilities recommended as national meeting venues under the Polish Presidency of the European Union Council in 2011 (29 June 2009, by circulation),
» Draft List of Priority Programmes of the Polish Presidency (21 June 2010),

Moreover, in performing the duty assigned to him by the Committee of the Council of Ministers on 15 June 2009, the Plenipotentiary submitted quarterly progress reports on the multiannual programme to members of the Committee of the Council of Ministers. The reports were also distributed to the Council of Ministers.
1.5. International Co-operation

1.5.1. Co-operation with Member States

Co-operation with Trio partners and European Union institutions was a valuable lesson, bringing Member States closer to one another, and allowing for institutions to be truly learnt, for positions to be negotiated, and for compromise to be developed. It enabled national contributions to the programme (and subsequent comments) to be analysed, favourably influencing the status quo of preparatory works. As a result of close co-operation (nine meetings at Trio co-ordinator level), a document was drafted outlining challenges faced by the European Union and areas of priority for all three presidencies. Trio-based co-operation guarantees cohesion in European Union activities.

Poland began co-operating within the Denmark and Cyprus Trio in 2008. Regular co-operation continued at a variety of levels: foreign affairs and sector ministers, and directors at ministries of foreign affairs and at other relevant agencies. Triateral co-operation between Poland, Denmark, and Cyprus was consistently maintained and developed at the ministerial level as well as other central authorities and institutions.

The following presidency co-ordinator level meetings were organised:

- February 2008 – Copenhagen (Denmark),
- May 2008 – Warsaw (Poland),
- November 2008 – Nicosia (Cyprus),
- May 2009 – Warsaw (Poland),
- November 2009 – Brussels (Belgium),
- April 2010 – Ayia Napa (Cyprus),
- November 2010 – Brussels (Belgium),
- March 2011 – Brussels (Belgium),
- May 2011 – Nicosia (Cyprus).

As of July 2008, the Plenipotentiary for the Preparation of Governmental Administrative Agencies and Poland’s Presidency of the Council of the European Union engaged in intense dialogue with European Union Member States, with co-operation organised on four chief platforms:

1) Poland-Denmark-Cyprus Trio format meetings at the level of national co-ordinators for presidency preparation,
2) Bilateral consultations to the end of absorbing the experience of other Member States with regard to preparations for the Presidency of the Council of the European Union,
3) Bilateral consultations to the end of promoting Poland’s Presidency priorities, and gaining knowledge of other states’ expectations of the Polish Presidency of the Council of the EU,
4) Co-operation with Hungary as the Presidency immediately preceding the Polish Presidency.

On 9 May 2011, Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk met the Danish Prime Minister Lars Løkke Rasmussen, and Cypriot President Demetris Christofias in Warsaw. Talks focused on the upcoming Polish Presidency, and the launch of Poland-Denmark-Cyprus Trio co-operation.

Trio-based co-operation has continued after the close of the Polish Presidency. Intense co-operation with Cyprus serves purposes of discussing the current European agenda and identifying areas of potential Polish support for Cypriot Presidency, among others.

1.5.1.1. Bilateral Consultations

Some of the Plenipotentiary’s foreign visits served the purpose of gaining knowledge of the experience of states that held the presidency prior to Poland. Relevant knowledge was shared in plenary talks as well as during special-purpose presentations prepared for Polish delegations by units responsible for presidency preparations in individual countries. Such presentations were organised for example during Polish visits to Copenhagen and Stockholm in January 2009, and to Madrid in March 2009.

The Plenipotentiary received guests from or paid foreign visits to nearly all Member States of the European Union. During the period immediately preceding the Polish Presidency, presentations of the Polish Presidency’s priorities and listening to partner expectations were fixed items on the agendas of all meetings. The Plenipotentiary held consultation sessions with European affairs ministers and other high-ranking administrative officials responsible for European affairs in Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Romania, Germany, France, Spain, Sweden, Greece, Italy, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Lithuania, Slovakia, Portugal, and Finland, among others. Occasionally, multilateral consultations were organised as well: on 2 February 2010, the Plenipotentiary hosted a meeting of European affairs ministers from the Weimar Triangle states in Warsaw.

Meetings and bilateral visits apart, the Plenipotentiary participated in a series of talks with his counterparts on the occasion of General Affairs Council and European Council sessions. Moreover, he regularly accompanied the Prime Minister Donald Tusk at prime ministerial-level meetings in bi- and multilateral format (such as the Visegrad co-operation community). Such meetings, especially in months immediately preceding the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union, focused primarily on Poland’s priorities for its Presidency.

Active international efforts taken by the Prime Minister tied in with a number of official visits and meetings with heads of governments of European Union Member States. Talks held in the first six months of 2011 usually concerned matters relating to preparations for the Presidency; meetings organised under the Polish Presidency of the Council
of the European Union centred around Poland holding the office. Notably, the following were organised: Polish-Spanish intergovernmental consultations (10 March 2011), as well as visits of the Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk to Austria (8 April 2011), the United Kingdom (18 April 2011), Croatia (6 and 7 May 2011), France (3 June 2011), the Czech Republic (15 July 2011), and Lithuania (4 September 2011). In light of the fact that the Polish Presidency closed works on the first (English-language) version of the Accession Treaty with Croatia on time, on 17 September 2011 Prime Minister Donald Tusk officially presented the draft Treaty to Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor at a ceremony in Zagreb. Prime Minister Donald Tusk held a meeting with the Italian Prime Minister Mario Monti on the sidelines of the December European Council session in Brussels.

Polish Presidency-related issues were also debated during visits to Warsaw by European leaders: the prime ministers of Hungary (1 December 2010), Finland (19 January and 19 December 2011), Malta (5–7 April 2011), the Kingdom of the Netherlands (17 May 2011), Bulgaria (19–20 May 2011), Sweden (30 May 2011), Norway (10 June 2011), Estonia (30 June 2011), Croatia (20 July 2011), Portugal (15 September 2011), and Denmark (27 October 2011), as well as in the course of Polish-German consultations on 21 June 2011, and at the Visegrad Group forum (15 February, 16 June and 14 October 2011).

1.5.1.2. Co-operation with the Hungarian Presidency

Intense dialogue and co-operation were established with Hungary, which held the Presidency immediately preceding Poland. The topic of preparing for the Presidency was mentioned for the first time in February 2008, when Gábor Ivan, Secretary of State for European Union Affairs at the Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, visited Warsaw. In June 2009, the Plenipotentiary headed the Polish delegation during Presidency preparation consultation sessions in Budapest. Co-operation continued also after the change of government in Hungary. In 20 September 2010, the Plenipotentiary paid another visit to Budapest, where he met Enikő Győrő, Minister of State for European Union Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Advisor to the Prime Minister for European Union Affairs Péter Gottfried, and Secretary of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Zsolt Németh.

On 14 January 2011, Hungary initiated a meeting of European affairs ministers of Hungary and of the Poland-Denmark-Cyprus Trio in the sidelines of the informal GAC at Gödöllő, Hungary. The meeting focused on the methodology of works on Multiannual Financial Frameworks for the years 2014-2020. The meeting marked an entry into regular dialogue in the area, enabling i.a. the drafting of rules of inter-institutional co-operation (with the European Parliament in particular) for purposes of work on the European Union’s new multiannual budget.

On 1 June 2011, a meeting of European affairs ministers was organised in Budapest for two Trios: Spain-Belgium-Hungary, and Poland-Denmark-Cyprus, focusing on the submission of key issue portfolios to the European agenda.

On 1 July 2011 in Warsaw, the Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk officially inaugurated the commencement of the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union. The event was attended by the President of the European Parliament Jerzy Buzek, President of the European Council Herman Van Rompuy, President of the European Commission José Manuel Barroso, and other high-ranking representatives of European Union Member States and institutions. On the same day, in the course of a special ceremony, Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán symbolically turned the Presidency of the Council of the European Union over to the Prime Minister of Poland Donald Tusk.

1.5.2. Co-operation with European Union Institutions

1.5.2.1. Co-operation with the European Commission, the Secretary General of the Council of the European Union, and the Office of the President of the European Council

In the course of preparation for the Presidency it was concluded that closer co-operation with the European Commission, the General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union, and the Office of the President of the European Council Herman Van Rompuy (HvR) would be one of the success factors for the Polish Presidency. Thus, as of 2009 a number of meetings and consultations were organised, on the one hand to the end of reviewing the European agenda and consulting on Polish priorities and programme, and – on the other – to establish or strengthen personal contacts with representatives of Union institutions. The importance of such co-operation was reflected in recommendations for ministries contained in the ‘Draft List of Priority Programmes for the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union in the Second Half of 2011’, submitted by the Plenipotentiary and approved by the Council of Ministers on 21 July 2010. The Council of Ministers recommended every ministry to organise detailed consultations with regard to priority and programme proposals with the European Commission and the General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union.
Permanent dialogue was established with the **Office of the President of the European Council** to discuss the themes of European Council sessions under the Polish Presidency, in order to bring them as close as possible to the Polish Presidency’s priorities. Detailed Polish proposals were submitted as to the criteria of selecting European Council session topics by HvR’s Office (narrow fields, direct connection with the European Union’s action plan (agenda). Draft Polish priorities were consulted during meetings. Ultimately, economic growth (one of the priorities for the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union) was a topic noted by the European Council session in October 2011. The visit of members of the Office of the President of the European Council to Warsaw in January 2011 was a major component in developing contacts with HvR’s Office. Debates were organised in four theme sessions on priorities suggested for the Polish Presidency: sources of growth in the European Union, the single market, energy-related matters, the Eastern Partnership, and the Common Security and Defence Policy.

In preparation, attention was paid to the growing role of the **General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union** in organising European Council sessions. The GS CUE assumed all competencies formerly assigned to rotation presidencies as concerns general session management, conclusion drafts, and submission of strategic solutions to the President of the European Council and his/her Cabinet. Multianual Financial Frameworks were a critical topic of contacts with the GS CUE. In preparation for the Polish Presidency of the Council, the necessity of defining rules of co-operation and negotiations in the MFF area between the GS CUE and Poland and other Trio states was a fact well-known. Consultations were organised in appropriate format, resulting in the drafting of a joint methodology of MFF-related work in the Council of the European Union in the years 2014-2020. Another effect of intense co-operation with the GS CUE involved contacts to draft the ‘Six-Month Presidency Programme’, agendas of individual Councils, and the ‘Eighteen-Month Trio Programme’.

The **European Commission** was consulted on the plans, priorities, programme and message of the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union. The European Commission’s 2011 Action Plan was a document of particularly extensive consultations, as it was a paper of key importance from the viewpoint of Poland programming its Presidency-related works. During preparations for the Presidency, frequent meetings and consultations on the topic were held. To the end of ensuring cohesion of Presidency activities with European Commission plans, the Polish party drafted and submitted a list of positive initiatives originating from the European Commission’s programme (Annex Two included) and key to the Polish Presidency. The ultimate purpose was to ensure the European Commission’s greater commitment to the dossiers until the year-end 2010. These included the Communication on External Energy Policy, and the Communication on Electronic Commerce. According to the European Commission, three crucial areas to be debated under the Polish Presidency involved intellectual property, financial services, and social matters.

The purpose of bringing the European Commission closer to Polish proposals and to preparations for the Presidency was served by two visits of Secretary General of the European Commission Catherine Day to Warsaw: in May 2010 and April 2011, the latter immediately preceding the Presidency.

An important moment was that of organising the Council of Ministers’ visit to the European Commission on 9 June 2010. These consultations involved three major events: a joint plenary session of the Council of Ministers and the College of Commissioners, a working lunch, and minister-commissioner cluster meetings. Additionally, bilateral meetings of the Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk with the President of the European Commission José Manuel Barroso took place. The minister-commissioner talks centred around Polish preparations for its Presidency of the Council of the European Union, as well as the European Union’s current agenda and priorities for the upcoming two years. Consultations focused largely on matters concerning the Polish Presidency’s programme. Points of merit aside, consultations served the purpose of developing the image of Poland – the future Presidency – as a state fully committed and determined to make its Presidency of the Council of the European Union a success. The visit actually commenced the true and final stage of Presidency-related preparations, and ensured an improvement of personal contacts between all ministers and their counterparts in the European Commission. Concurrently, the unwaveringly favourable comments offered by European Commission representatives and Brussels-based media with regard to the importance and unprecedented nature of the event served to confirm the success of the meeting. The Commission declared its general support for the Polish Presidency’s priorities as planned highlights in the Commission’s action plan.

On 8 July 2011, Prime Minister Donald Tusk received the President of the European Commission José Manuel Barroso in Warsaw; concurrently, a meeting of the Council of Ministers with the College of Commissioners took place. This traditional Council of Ministers/College of Commissioners encounter served the purpose of discussing matters of key importance to the Presidency. Further meetings of Prime Minister Donald Tusk with President of the European Commission José Manuel
Barroso were held on 30 August, 20 October, and 8 and 9 December 2011. Additionally, Prime Minister Donald Tusk met the President of the European Council Herman Van Rompuy on 15 March 2011, 12 September 2011, 29 September 2011 (sidelines of the Eastern Partnership Summit), 20 October 2011 (sidelines of the Multiannual Financial Frameworks conference), and 8 and 9 December 2011 (on occasion of the European Council session). The Polish Prime Minister also participated in European Council sessions on 24 and 25 March 2011, 23 and 24 June 2011, 23 October 2011, 26 October 2011, and 9 December 2011.

1.5.2.2. Co-operation with the European External Action Service

Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union coincided with the final stages of the Lisbon Treaty implementation, and the related process of designing a uniform practice with regard to matters focusing in particular on the allocation of competencies between the Presidency and the European External Action Service (EEAS). This holds true both for the internal dimension of the Union (developing the Service’s organisational structure, designing the EEAS’ detailed relations with European institutions and EU Member States) and for external issues (implementation of EEAS priorities internationally).

Despite its active attitude in relations with the EEAS, Poland did not overstep the framework outlined by the Lisbon Treaty provisions. Polish efforts focused on the implementation of the Decision of the Council of the European Union of 26 July 2010 establishing the organisation and functioning of the EEAS, and in consequence on the strengthening of EEAS’ image worldwide and among European Union partners. The Presidency was convinced that the successful development of efficient European diplomacy of high standing will largely depend on the efficiency of EEAS activities.

In agreement with the EEAS, Poland made extensive use of the Presidency/EEAS co-operation mechanism in the Common Foreign and Security Policy area. For the first time in the history of the Lisbon Treaty and the EEAS, a Minister of Foreign Affairs and his management staff in an acting Presidency of the Council of the European Union became so deeply involved in standing in for the High Representative in contact with third countries, acting i.a. as chairpersons of European Union delegations.

Moreover, top-ranking Ministry of Foreign Affairs staff intervened on behalf of the High Representative during an EP plenary session, and before the EP’s foreign affairs commission. In the context of standing in for the High Representative, organising (and chairing) the informal development ministers’ meeting in Poland was a major event. The practice Poland applied in alleviating the EEAS’ load in contact with third parties and in the EP was highly appreciated by the Service, who consequently applied to the Danish Presidency to continue the operational model.

The Polish conceptual contribution to the European Union foreign policy and security areas took on form in the project to set up the European Fund for Democracy; proposals to develop the Common Security and Defence Policy; development-centred co-operation; and more intense dialogue with the European Union’s strategic partners.

The Polish Presidency’s operational efficiency in the Common Foreign and Security Policy area was confirmed on the occasion of the informal foreign affairs ministers’ meeting in the ‘Gymnich’ format. Thanks to close co-operation with High Representative Catherine Ashton, a balanced meeting agenda was tabled to reflect EEAS as well as Presidency priorities (the Eastern Partnership-related debate on day two of the meeting).

1.5.2.3. Co-operation in Third Countries

The Presidency’s co-operation with the EEAS in third countries was a double-track evolution. In countries with European Union missions headed by accredited ambassadors, they were supported by Polish diplomatic mission staff, with their lead role distinctly limited to areas outlined by the Lisbon Treaty (i.a. co-ordination of consular meetings). Particular importance was attached to co-operation of European Union missions with Polish representations to international organisations. Not only did Polish experts and diplomats support European Union Delegations in matters of merit (the Delegations in question often as not suffering of staff shortages), but they chiefly took an active part in efforts to strengthen the role of the European Union on the forum of various organisations.

In the ten countries where the European Union did not have a representative in the rank of ambassador, Poland used its diplomatic missions to represent the Union locally, and was responsible for all and any diplomatic in co-operation with third countries and international organisations. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland represented the High Representative during visits to Afghanistan and Pakistan, and was the first high representative of the European Union to fly into Benghazi to express support for the Temporary National Council.

28 According to Lisbon Treaty, provisions, the EEAS was established to the purpose of strengthening the Union’s position internationally in contact with external partners, and defining methods of active EU commitment as a major player in international politics.

29 The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland and other members of the MFA’s top management stood in repeatedly for High Representative Catherine Ashton, i.a. chairing association councils, and

30 The meeting of 14 and 15 July 2011 in Sopot was chaired by Minister Krzysztof Stanowski.
activities on behalf of the EEAS, including the co-ordination of EU-27 missions operating in the given country.\textsuperscript{31}

Both in case of co-operating with European Union delegations and of acting as a local European Union representative mission, Poland emphasised the importance of European Union diplomacy as an indispensable instrument of European Union global influence. The Presidency’s co-operation with EEAS in third countries may be described as harmonious, albeit (also for reasons of the as yet unfinished process of forming the EEAS) not free of matters requiring more detail and precision.

The organisational efficiency of the Polish Presidency and skilful political matters management during a difficult period of changes internal and external to the Union have been confirmed numerous times by European institutions and our partners in the Union, including the High Representative Catherine Ashton.\textsuperscript{32}

\begin{itemize}
\item The Plenipotentiary of the EU Council;
\item eight meetings of liaison officers
\item the structure, operations and competencies of the EP;
\item the role of the Prime Minister and members of the government, including the Secretary of State for European Affairs, in contacts with the EP in the period preceding the Presidency and during its term;
\item recommended activities to be undertaken by ministers before and during the Presidency to boost effectiveness of cooperation with the EP.
\end{itemize}

The document was distributed in all ministries and central authorities.

During preparations for the Presidency, the following activities were initiated in the area of EP relations:

1) Development of the document \textit{Recommendations for ministers concerning cooperation with the EP during preparations for and the exercise of the Presidency}, which was later adopted by the Committee for European Affairs on 5 March 2010. It contains information about:

\begin{itemize}
\item the structure, operations and competencies of the EP;
\item the role of the Prime Minister and members of the government, including the Secretary of State for European Affairs, in contacts with the EP in the period preceding the Presidency and during its term;
\item recommended activities to be undertaken by ministers before and during the Presidency to boost effectiveness of cooperation with the EP.
\end{itemize}

2) To assure effective implementation of obligations imposed on ministers by ‘Recommendations for ministers’ (…) and increase effectiveness of ministerial preparations for cooperation with the EP during the Presidency, a network of liaison officers for cooperation with the Plenipotentiary on all EP-related issues was established in all ministries and central authorities. Liaison officers were appointed by members of the Committee for European Affairs, and their objective was to support respective ministers and the Plenipotentiary in relations with the EP before and during the Presidency. On behalf of the Plenipotentiary, efforts of the liaison officer team were overseen by a specially designated staff member of his secretariat.

In the period preceding the Polish Presidency of the EU Council, eight meetings of liaison officers were convened at the request of the Plenipotentiary (on 29 March 2010, 26 May 2010, 15 September 2010, 29 October 2010, 14 January 2011, 18 March 2011, 16 June 2011, and 19 July 2011). The need to initiate cooperation of the Polish government with the European Parliament at an early stage of preparations for the Presidency of the EU Council as well as the scope of such cooperation were identified in \textit{The Programme of Polish Preparations for the Assumption and the Exercise of the Presidency of the European Union Council}, the document: Priorities and programming the Polish Presidency of the European Union in 2011 and the document Recommendations for ministers concerning cooperation with the European Parliament during preparations for and the exercise of the Presidency of the EU Council by the Republic of Poland.

\begin{footnotesize}
\textsuperscript{31} Countries were the Ambassador of the Republic of Poland stood in as Ambassador of the European Union included the following: Iran, Qatar, North Korea, Cuba, Kuwait, New Zealand, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Vatican, and United Arab Emirates. Moreover, Polish diplomatic missions in Kuwait and Uzbekistan continue acting as local European Union presidencies also in the first half of 2012.

\textsuperscript{32} In a letter of 20 December 2012 to Minister Radosław Sikorski, High Representative Catherine Ashton highlighted the high quality of Polish Presidency, including the extraordinary commitment of Poland and the Polish Minister of Foreign Affairs to actions supporting the High Representative.
\end{footnotesize}
In addition to regular liaison officer meetings contributed to:

1. preparation of ministries and central authorities to undertake consecutive measures to initiate and expand cooperation with the EP before and during the Presidency in accordance with guidelines laid down in ‘Recommendations for ministers (…)’. Meetings were particularly helpful in gearing ministries up to identify and build relations with key representatives of the EP, preparing ministries for visits of EP committees, political groups and the Conference of Presidents of the EP to the EP plenary sessions; 

2. information-gathering by the Plenipotentiary on implementation of consecutive recommendations by ministries and central authorities during preparations for the Presidency in the context of relations with the EP and current legislative cooperation with the European Parliament; 

3. conveying with the Plenipotentiary’s authorisation of information and documents concerning activities of the EP and Trio presidency countries relevant in the context of preparations for the Presidency (e.g. the EP agenda in 2011, SG RUE communication on the status of Council-EP relations, communication on speeches of ministers of previous presidencies given at EP committees and plenary sessions, the scope of support provided by EP language services to representatives of the presidency, the scope of support offered by SG RUE to presidency ministers in the context of cooperation with the EP, principles of presidency’s cooperation with EP committees) 

In addition to regular liaison officer meetings, convened at the Plenipotentiary’s request, two training courses for liaison officers for cooperation with the Plenipotentiary on all EP-related issues were held to give participants an insight into the scope and principles of the presidency’s cooperation with the EP:

1. a training seminar conducted by an expert from the Directorate for Inter-institutional Cooperation of the General Secretariat of the European Union Council on 14 January 2011 in Warsaw, attended by directors of EU departments of ministries and central authorities; 

2. a training seminar conducted by experts of the General Secretariat of the European Parliament on 5 May 2011 at the European Parliament in Brussels, also attended by heads of divisions of the Permanent Representation of the Republic of Poland to the European Union in Brussels.

In line with ‘Recommendations for ministers (…)’ ministries and central authorities identified key EP representatives in the terms of sectoral priorities of the Presidency (including heads and deputy heads of respective committees, coordinators of political groups in committees, rapporteurs and counter-rapporteurs on key issues in terms of the Presidency’s priorities). Ministries and central authorities submitted lists of identified key individuals in the EP to the Plenipotentiary up until 15 October 2010, which were further updated and supplemented in the course of preparations for the Presidency. A related summary record was discussed and adopted by the Committee for European Affairs on 9 November 2010.

Meetings of executives from ministries and central authorities with identified EP representatives were held from end-2010 until the start of the Poland’s EU Council Presidency. Their objective was to initiate informal relations, present initial priorities and the programme of the Presidency as well as to identify the principles of cooperation to be pursued during the Presidency’s term in office. Communication about scheduled and completed meetings was discussed and approved by the Committee for European Affairs on 5 November 2010, 9 November 2010, 18 January 2011, 18 February 2011, 1 March 2011, and 12 April 2011. In additional to political meetings, ministries initiated relations with EP representatives at the expert level (including committee secretariats staff, political groups advisors, assistants to Polish and foreign MEPs) directly or through the intermediary of the Permanent Representation of the Republic of Poland to the European Union in Brussels.

Prior to the Presidency, acting in his capacity of Secretary of State for European Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Plenipotentiary held a number of meetings with key EP representatives, both on the political and the official level, including:

1. Jerzy Buzek, President of the European Parliament, officials from the General Secretariat of the EP and leaders of the largest political groups on 17 June 2011 during a visit of the EP Conference of Committee Chairs to Warsaw; 

2. Joseph Daul, President of the European People’s Party in the EP and key MEPs from this group (during a meeting with the Polish Prime Minister on 26 November 2010 in Warsaw and a visit of the EPL group to Warsaw on 26 May 2011).
• Martin Schulz, the President of Social Democrats and key MEPs from this group (during a meeting with the Polish MP on 27 September 2010 in Warsaw and a visit of the S&D group to Warsaw on 25 May 2011);
• Guy Verhofstadt, the President of the Liberals in the EP and key MEPs from this group (during a meeting with ALDE representatives on 24 May 2010 in Brussels and a meeting during ALDE group’s visit to Warsaw on 11 June 2011);
• Rebecca Harms, EP Greens leader and key representatives of the group (on 10 February 2011 in Brussels and during the visit of the Greens/EFA group to Warsaw on 16 June 2011);
• Klaus Welle, the Secretary-General of the European Parliament (on 25 June 2010 in Warsaw and on 12 January 2011 in Brussels);
• Secretaries General of key political groups in the EP (on 12 January 2011 and on 9 February 2011 in Brussels);
• Polish MEPs on 12 January 2011 and 9 February 2011 in Brussels;
• Klaus Heiner Lehne, Chairman of the EP’s Legal Affairs Committee (JURI) and President of the Conference of Committee Chairs (on 12 January 2011 in Brussels);
• Carlo Cassini, Chairman of the Constitutional Affairs Committee (AFCO) and key MEPs from the committee (on 2 September 2011 in Brussels, 25 May 2011 in Warsaw and 4 July 2011 in Strasbourg);
• Representatives of other EP committees (including the International Trade Committee of 27 June 2011 in Warsaw and the Committee on Regional Development of 27 June 2011 in Warsaw);
• Olga Cosmidou, Director-General for the EP Oral and Conference Translation (DG INTE) on 14 March 2011. Information about the scope of support provided by EP language services to representatives of the Presidency during EP meetings as well as EP guidelines regarding speeches given in the EP forum obtained during this meeting was later communicated to ministers via liaison officers, discussed and adopted by the Committee for European Affairs on 1 April 2011;
• Other representatives of the EP, the General-Secretariat of the EP and the Office of the President of the European Parliament, Jerzy Buzek, coinciding with other EU meetings in Brussels.

Acting in his capacity of the Secretary of State for European Affairs, the Plenipotentiary also took part in the meeting of the Conference of Committee Chairs of 7 June 2011 where he presented priorities and the programme of the Polish EU Council Presidency.

7) To ensure effective support for the Plenipotentiary in the area of cooperation with the EP in the context of the Polish Presidency of the Council, relations on the expert level between the Secretariat of the Plenipotentiary and the following EP units were reinforced:
• secretariats of key EP committees (AFCO, ENVI, BUDG, ECON, AGRI, JURI, AFET, SEDE, DROI, DEVE);
• the secretariat of the EP Conference of Committee Chairs and the Conference of Presidents of the EP;
• the office of the EP President and offices of political group leaders;
• the Directorate-General in charge of planning EP plenary sessions and the Directorate-General for communication in the EP;
• assistants to chairpersons of Polish sections in EP political groupings.

In addition, cooperation with the Directorate-General for Political and Inter-institutional Affairs of the General-Secretariat of the Council which is in charge of supporting the Presidency in its relations with the EP was initiated. Contacts with representatives of Belgium, Hungary, Sweden and Germany responsible for EP relations at head offices and Permanent Representations of those states to the EU in Brussels were also established.

8) Klaus Welle, EP Secretary-General, visited Poland on 25 June 2010 on invitation of the Plenipotentiary. He took part in a meeting of the Committee for European Affairs which became the venue of an in-depth discussion on the Presidency’s cooperation with the EP. The visit provided a good opportunity to obtain practical information about the EP’s expectations regarding relations with members of the government of the country holding the presidency. Klaus Welle also met Tomasz Arabski, who heads the Prime Minister’s Chancellery (on the issue of competencies).

9) In January 2011, ministries launched intensive preparations for visits of EP committees, EP political groups and the Conference of Presidents of the EP in Poland. In line with the decision of the Plenipotentiary, respective ministries and central authorities (acting via liaison officers) were in charge of coordinating the visits of individual EP committees, whereas preparations for visits of political groups and the EP Conference of Committee Chairs were assigned to the Ministry
of Foreign Affairs. The status of preparations for visits of EP committees, EP political groups and the EP Conference of Committee Chairs was discussed and approved by the Committee for European Affairs on 18 March 2011 and 10 May 2011.

10) In consideration of limited accommodation infrastructure in Strasbourg and a large number of guests during EP plenary sessions, at the Plenipotentiary’s request, on 8 April 2011, the Committee for European Affairs adopted a document entitled ‘Communication about the urgent need for pre-booking hotels for ministers participating in plenary sessions of the European Parliament in Strasbourg’, which committed ministries to authorise the Permanent Representation of the Republic of Poland to the European Union in Brussels to pre-book hotel rooms in Strasbourg to ensure accommodation for ministers and accompanying delegations taking part in EP plenary sessions in Strasbourg on behalf of the Council.

11) Preparations for speeches of ministers to EP committees designed to present the Presidency’s sectoral priorities were launched in May 2011. A summary record containing the schedule of ministers’ addresses and the division of competencies between particular ministers was discussed and approved by the Committee for European Affairs on 17 May 2011 and the Support Committee for the Polish EU Council Presidency on 8 July 2011. In line with a proposal of the Plenipotentiary, a training seminar in public speaking to EP committees was held for ministers of the Polish Presidency on 11-14 July 2011 in Brussels. The course was facilitated by Burson-Marsteller consulting agency and covered practical information about the activities of committees and speech simulations. Training was attended by the following ministers: the Minister of Infrastructure, the Minister of Health, the Minister of Environment, and the Minister of National Education, the President of the Office of Competition and Consumer Protection and the Government Plenipotentiary for Equal Treatment.

12) To reinforce the cooperation of ministries and central authorities with Polish MEPs in the context of the Poland’s Council Presidency, at the request of the Plenipotentiary workshops for assistants to Polish MEPs were conducted on 26 June 2011 in Warsaw. The course covered a general module and four thematic ones dedicated to foreign affairs; the internal market, economic, environmental, and budgetary affairs and was conducted by experts from various ministries. Workshops were a good opportunity to get an insight into the mechanisms of participation in EU efforts, present issues from the EU agenda which are vital for both parties and to identify principles of cooperation during the Polish Presidency.

13) To perform obligations provided under ‘Recommendations for ministers (…)’ and to act on request of the Plenipotentiary, prior to the Presidency ministries and central authorities conducted regular monitoring of EP legislative efforts, which was rolled out by respective departments for European affairs via their contact network on the political and expert level. This initiative contributed to sound preparations for legislative cooperation with the EP during the term of the Presidency.

14) Prior to the Presidency, preparations for the EU leadership in terms of its relations with the EP were addressed by the Plenipotentiary during bilateral meetings with members of the government and during meetings coordinating preparations for the Polish Presidency, including the Council of Ministers. This issue was also tackled in official correspondence between the Plenipotentiary, executives of ministries and central authorities.

EP committee visits to Poland

From April until June 2011 ten out of twenty EP standing committees delegated their representatives to visit Warsaw to get an insight into Presidency’s priorities related to efforts of the following committees:

» The Committee on Employment and Social Affairs (EMPL) on 18-20 April 2011;
» The Committee on Women’s Rights and Gender Equality (FEMM) on 16-18 May 2011;
» The Committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO) on 16-19 May 2011;
» The Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) on 18-20 May 2011;
» The Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON) on 19-20 May 2011;
» The Committee on Constitutional Affairs (AFCO) on 24-26 May 2011;
» The Committee on Budgets (BUDG) on 27 May 2011;
» The Committee on Legal Affairs (JURI) on 16-17 June 2011;
» The Committee on International Trade (INTA) on 27 June 2011;

During their visits, committee delegations comprising representatives of the Bureau, coordinators of political groups, leading MEPs, committee secretariat staff and interpreters met ministers in charge of areas corresponding
Table 5. Dates of visits of political groups and the Conference of Presidents of the EP to Poland

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Meeting</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats (S&amp;D) group – 16 members of S&amp;D delegation, including the group leader, Martin Schulz</td>
<td>25 May 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>European People’s Party (Christian Democrats) (EPP) – eight members of EPL delegation, including the group’s Chairman, Joseph Daul</td>
<td>26 May 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Greens/ European Free Alliance (Greens/ EFA) – nine delegation members, including its Co-President, Rebecca Harms</td>
<td>16 June 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE) - 30 people altogether, including 17 MEPs (ALDE coordinators, mainly from EP standing committees) and the fraction’s Chairman, Guy Verhofstadt</td>
<td>11 July 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>The Conference of Presidents of the EP – 35 people altogether, including representatives of the European Commission and SG RUE</td>
<td>16-17 June 2011</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Visits of political groups and the Conference of Presidents of the EP

In the second quarter of 2011, the Plenipotentiary extended invitations to the largest political fractions in the European Parliament to conduct working visits of EP representatives to Poland in relation to the forthcoming Polish Presidency of the EU Council. Such visits are customarily organised in an EU Member State directly before the launch of its presidency. The objective of visits was to present priorities and the agenda of the Polish Presidency to representatives of the Parliament, i.e. the institution which is the key partner of the Council in the course of legislative efforts. In addition, organisation of visits strived to boost the effectiveness of cooperation of the Polish government administration with the European Parliament during the term of the Polish Presidency.

In response to the invitation of the Plenipotentiary of the Polish Government, the four largest political fractions in the EP declared their willingness to pay a visit. All group visits were held in a format which enabled the Polish party to present and discuss key priorities of the Polish Presidency with MEPs. Delegates attended working sessions featuring members of the Council of Ministers and executives from various ministries. Sessions were teamed up with meetings of representatives of all political groups with the Prime Minister and working lunches staged by the Plenipotentiary and executives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The meeting with Socialists and Democrats (S&D) was attended by representatives of the top management of the following ministries: the Ministry of Economy, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Regional Development, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Ministry of Science and Higher Education (plus Undersecretaries of State for European Affairs and liaison officers for cooperation with the Government Plenipotentiary on all EP-related issues).

The programme of the visit of EPL representatives began with the meeting of the Polish Prime Minister with Joseph Daul, the leader of the group (tête-à-tête meeting). In addition, the delegation met Polish President, Bronislaw Komorowski. Representatives of the Ministry of Economy, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, the Ministry of Regional Development, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Ministry of Science and Higher Education (plus Undersecretaries of State for European Affairs and liaison officers for cooperation with the Government Plenipotentiary on all EP-related issues).

As regards the Greens group, the meeting centred on four leading themes, i.e.: economic governance, energy, budget, and CAP reform. The agenda of the visit included a meeting with Prime Minister Donald Tusk, a working session with Deputy Prime Minister Waldemar Pawlak and executives from the following ministries: the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Regional Development,
1.5. International Co-operation

the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Talking points addressed during the discussion held by members of the Liberals and Democrats (ALDE) delegation with representatives of the Council of Ministers included: the internal market, trade, energy, CSOP, the area of freedom, security and justice (JHA), the future of the cohesion policy and the CAP reform. Issues were presented by representatives of executive authorities of: the Ministry of Economy, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Infrastructure, the Ministry of National Defence, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Regional Development, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. The culmination of the visit culminated was the delegates’ meeting with PM Donald Tusk.

Visits of political groups to Poland on the eve of the Polish Presidency, an open and exhaustive formula of working meetings as well as enormous commitment of the executive management of individual ministries had a positive impact on cooperation with the European Parliament during the Presidency and contributed to positive reception of the programme presented by Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk at EP plenary session of 6 July 2011.

A visit of representatives of the Conference of Presidents of the EP (CP) to Warsaw on 16-17 June 2011 marked another element of preparations for the Poland’s EU Council Presidency in the context of its prospective cooperation with the European Parliament. The CP delegation was chaired by the EP President, Jerzy Buzek and consisted of representatives of the European Commission and the General-Secretariat of the Council of the European Union (35 delegation members altogether). The group visited Poland at the invitation of Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk. Its programme covered working meetings with representatives of the highest state authorities: the Polish President, Speakers of the Polish Parliament and Senate, the Polish Prime Minister, members of the Council of Ministers, Polish MPs and senators (heads of parliamentary clubs and groups and the Commission for European Union and Foreign Affairs).

1.5.3.2. Cooperation with the European Parliament during the Polish Presidency of the EU Council

1) On 1 July 2011, when Poland assumed the Presidency of the EU Council, the Plenipotentiary submitted a letter to all MEPs in which he communicated the priorities of the Polish Presidency and the intention to pursue harmonious cooperation with the EP. In addition, MEPs received Who’s who – Guide of the Polish Presidency to facilitate contacts with key representatives of the Polish Presidency at the head office and the Permanent Representation of the Republic of Poland to the EU in Brussels.

2) On 4-13 July 2011, 25 Constitutional Ministers and Secretaries/Undersecretaries of State in ministries and central authorities took part in meetings of 15 out of 20 EP standing committees to present sectoral priories and the agenda of the Presidency. The Plenipotentiary highlighted priorities and the work programme of the Presidency in the forum of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs (AFCO) of 4 July 2011. The schedule of speeches given by ministers of the Polish Presidency at EP committees has been enclosed as Annex 5 to this report.

3) On 5 July 2011, during a visit to the EP in Strasbourg, the Plenipotentiary met heads of Information Offices of the European Parliament in EU Member States to present the priorities and programme of the Polish Presidency. Heads of EP Information Offices and executives of the EP Directorate-General for Communication visited Poland on 15 July 2011, where they held a meeting with the Director of the Department for Coordination of the Polish Presidency of the EU Council.

4) The Plenipotentiary and, upon his recommendation, ministers and heads of central authorities represented the Council at EP plenary sessions in Strasbourg and mini-sessions in Brussels. During the Presidency, the Polish Prime Minister and Polish ministers attended 34 debates of the European Parliament during 12 sessions and two EP plenary mini-sessions.

Speeches given by the Polish Prime Minister, Donald Tusk, on 6 July 2011 and 4 December 2011 in Strasbourg at the first and the final plenary session of the European Parliament during the Polish Presidency were particularly important in the context of the inauguration and summing-up of the Polish Presidency’s successful cooperation with the European Parliament.

The list of speeches given by the Polish Prime Minister and ministers of the Polish Presidency on behalf of the Council at EP plenary sessions has been enclosed as Annex 6 to this report.

5) Photographic exhibition entitled ‘Hello, Poland!’ was held during EP plenary session in Strasbourg on 12-15 September 2011 in the EP building to present contemporary Poland in the eyes of its inhabitants. The exhibition featured photos by winners of an open photographic competition celebrating the Polish Presidency as well as works by accomplished Polish photographers. On behalf of the Plenipotentiary, the exhibition was officially opened by the Polish Ambassador to the EU, Jan Tombiński.

6) At the initiative of the Plenipotentiary, the Polish Presidency devised for MEPs an innovative formula of debates between the Presidency and EP
representatives, called ‘Meet the Presidency’. Debates were held on Tuesdays during EP plenary sessions in Strasbourg, and their objective was to enable MEPs to ask questions concerning current issues on the EU agenda to ministers of the Polish Presidency. These debates were also an opportunity to reinforce the inter-institutional dialogue on key European issues.

The Presidency witnessed the following debates in the ‘Meet the Presidency’ series:

- ‘State of the Union’ featuring the Plenipotentiary, Minister Mikołaj Dowgielewicz, on 27 September 2011;
- ‘European Endowment for Democracy’ featuring the Plenipotentiary, Minister Mikołaj Dowgielewicz, and Krzysztof Stanowski, Undersecretary of State for development assistance at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, on 25 October 2011;
- ‘The Road to Durban’ featuring Undersecretary of State at the Ministry of Environment, Joanna Maćkowiak-Pandera, on 15 November 2011;
- ‘Quo Vadis Europa?’ featuring Undersecretary of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Maciej Szpunar, and MEPs from the Spinelli Group on 13 December 2011.

Debates in the ‘Meet the Presidency’ series were highly evaluated by MEPs and became the hallmark of the Polish Presidency.

7) Two breakfast briefings for MEPs, journalists and think-tank representatives, featuring ministers of the Presidency and tackling major issues from the EU agenda were held in the European Parliament at the Plenipotentiary’s initiative:

- ‘The reform of Schengen: meeting new challenges’ featuring the Minister of Internal Affairs and Administration, Jerzy Miller, on 12 October 2011;
- ‘European energy policy’ featuring Undersecretary of State at the Ministry of Economy, Marcin Korolec, on 10 November 2011.

8) On 25 October 2011, acting in his capacity of the Secretary of State for European Affairs, the Plenipotentiary took part in a meeting of the Conference of Presidents of the EP to present the achievements of the Polish Presidency of the EU Council halfway through its term and plans for the final second stretch of the Presidency.

9) In the course of visits to the EP in Strasbourg during its plenary sessions, the Plenipotentiary acting as the Secretary of State for European Affairs signed EU legal acts adopted by the Council and the EP on behalf of the Council. Acts were ratified on behalf of the EP by the EP President, Jerzy Buzek. Four out of six legal acts reinforcing economic governance in the EU (known as the six-pack deal) were officially signed by the Council and the European Parliament on 16 November 2011. On behalf of the Council, all acts were signed into law by the Undersecretary of State at the Ministry of Finance, Wiesław Szczuka.

Acting in his capacity of the Secretary of State for European Affairs, the Plenipotentiary represented the Council during meetings of the Conciliation Committee dedicated to external financial instruments on 6 July and 6 September 2011.

In addition, the Plenipotentiary held a number of meetings with MEPs during his visits to Brussels and Strasbourg.

10) During the Polish Presidency, representatives of the following EP committees conducted visits to Poland:

- The Committee on Culture and Education (CULT) took part in the European Culture Congress in Wroclaw on 8-11 September 2011;
- The Committee on Regional Development (REGI) on 17-18 October 2011 was in Warsaw;
- The Committee on Development (DEVE) took part in European Development Days on 15-16 December 2011 in Warsaw;
- The Subcommittee on Security and Defence (SEDE) spent 15-17 December 2011 in Warsaw. Moreover, at the invitation of the Polish Presidency, representatives of various EP committees took part in informal meetings of selected sectoral Councils in Poland.

11) At the initiative of the Plenipotentiary, the Polish Presidency included the EP in discussions on the EU’s Multiannual Financial Framework. Therefore, MEPs designated by the EP attended an informal meeting of the General Affairs Council on 28-29 July 2011 in Sopot which witnessed the first discussion about MFF. In addition, the Polish Presidency held regular briefings and debriefings for MEPs which accompanied sessions of the General Affairs Council dedicated to MFF on 18 July; 12 September; 15 November and 5 December 2011. The EP was also invited to take part in the Conference on Multiannual Financial Framework on 20 October 2011 in Brussels.

12) While the Polish Presidency was in office, the group of liaison officers for cooperation with the Plenipotentiary on all EP-related issues continued its operations. At the Plenipotentiary’s request, three consecutive meetings of liaison officers were held on 8 September; 18 October and 22 November 2011. Liaison officer meetings convened during the Presidency contributed to identification of substantive and logistic issues regarding participation of the Presidency’s ministers
1.5. International Co-operation

in EP plenary sessions and meetings of EP committees, participation in debates in the ‘Meet the Presidency’ series and MEP breakfast briefings; release of current communication about the status of inter-institutional relations between the Council and the EP as well as review of current cooperation between the Presidency and the EP.

13) From 23 November 2011 until 24 January 2012, 14 Constitutional Ministers and Secretaries/Undersecretaries of State in ministries and central authorities took part in meetings of 10 out of 20 EP standing committees to sum up the accomplishments of the Polish Presidency in various areas. A record containing the schedule of speeches given by ministers as well as the division of competencies between various ministries were discussed and approved by the Committee for Support of the Polish EU Council Presidency on 28 November and 6 December 2011. The schedule of speeches given by ministers of the Polish Presidency to EP committees has been enclosed as Annex 5 to this report.

In line with the proposal of the Plenipotentiary, a training seminar for the Minister of Transport, Construction, and Maritime Economy was held in Warsaw on 20 January 2012 to make sound preparations for his speech to the EP TRAN Committee. The Minister had no previous experience in preparing for the Presidency in the context of cooperation with the EP. The training was conducted by Burson-Marsteller consulting company and covered practical information about activities of the committee and simulation of the speech.

14) At the end of the term of the Polish Presidency, acting in his capacity of the Secretary of State for European Affairs, the Plenipotentiary extended acknowledgment to all MEPs in recognition of their cooperation and commitment during the Polish Presidency of the EU Council. Produced in a postcard format, the acknowledgement contained a list of issues discussed by both institutions in the EP forum.

Council’s cooperation with the EP: support for inter-institutional groups

14) Followed positive experiences of countries which had held the EU Council Presidency in the past as well as in the light of broader competencies of EU advisory institutions (the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions) introduced by the Treaty of Lisbon, the Polish Presidency initiated cooperation with both Committees. Guidelines for cooperation were submitted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the Meeting of the Committee for European Affairs of 13 May 2010. That was followed by a series of meetings of the Government Plenipotentiary with Committee members, including the EESC President, Staffan Nilson (23 June 2010), President of the CoR, Mercedes Bresso (13 September 2010), the head of the Polish delegation to CoR, Marek Woźniak (14 July 2010), and EESC Vice-President, Jacek Krawczyk (5 January 2011).

Speeches of government representatives in the EESC and CoR forum delivered to highlight topics deemed to be priorities in social, economic, and regional areas:

The key issue addressed by the Group were correlation tables – documents describing how EU laws are implemented in Member States. The Polish Presidency arrived at a successful compromise of the Council, the EC and the EP which was officially confirmed on 20 October 2011 by the Conference of Presidents of the EP. The compromise contributed to ‘unblocking’ of legislative efforts, boosted the transparency of the decision-making process and improved the effectiveness of monitoring the application of Community law without imposing excessive administrative burdens on Member States.

The Polish Presidency witnessed official confirmation of the agreement with the EP concerning the EP’s participation in international conferences. In his letter to Minister Radosław Sikorski of 24 October 2011, EP President, Jerzy Buzek, communicated that the EP had approved the Council’s proposal of June 2011 concerning the formula of MEP participation in international conferences. In addition, the Presidency finalised the substantive portion of the project focused on the inter-institutional agreement between the Council and the EP concerning the forwarding and handling by the European Parliament of classified information held by the Council on matters other than those in the area of the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP).
» at the 131st session of the CoR Bureau of 19 June 2011, the Minister of Regional Development, Elżbieta Bieńkowska, presented the priorities and programme of the Polish Presidency, with special emphasis on the cohesion policy as an investment tool of the EU budget and a vehicle for implementation of Europe 2020 strategy objectives;

» at the EESC plenary session of 13 July 2011, Deputy Prime Minister Waldemar Pawlak discussed the economic priorities of the Polish Presidency, including development of the internal market, establishment of free trade zones with Eastern Partnership countries and boosting Europe’s security by reinforcement of its external energy policy;

» presentation of achievements of the Polish Presidency and a debate with EESC members at the 476th EESC plenary session held on 7-8 December 2011, featuring Grażyna Bernatowicz, Undersecretary of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs;

» Christmas Eve dinner celebrating the end of the Polish Presidency, hosted by Polish regions at the seat of the CoR (14 December 2011).

Exploratory opinions

Advisory committees offer advice to the European Commission, the European Parliament and the European Council on new legislative and programming initiatives, whereas consecutive presidencies apply for expert analyses in areas deemed to be their priority areas.

In relation to the specific work profile of both Committees (it takes approx. 6 months to devise a high-quality explanatory opinion), preparations for the official request for exploratory opinions were launched by the Polish Presidency on 5 July 2010. Consequently, a list of proposals was finalised which was later adopted by the Committee for European Affairs during its meeting held on 19 November 2010. On 30 November 2010, the Government Plenipotentiary submitted a motion requesting exploratory opinions to the EESC and CoR Presidents.

The Polish Presidency requested the EESC to draw up opinions on the following topic: ‘The future of the labour market in Europe – the quest for an effective response to demographic trends’; ‘The impact of the crisis on the capability of European enterprises to undertake pro-climate investments’; ‘Eastern Partnership and the eastern dimension of EU policies, with particular emphasis on the EU’s agricultural policy, food security, undisturbed trade, greater cooperation and development aid, and strategic partnership’; ‘Sustainable development of EU transport policy and planning for TEN-T’. Topics of exploratory opinions for the CoR: ‘Local and regional contributions to implementation of Europe 2020 strategy objectives’ and ‘the complementarity of national and Community intervention measures aimed at levelling differences in economic and social development’.

At the initiative of the Polish Presidency, exploratory opinions were submitted by the Bureaux of Committees to working committees and subsequently adopted at EESC plenary sessions on 15-16 June 2011, 13-14 July 2011, 26-27 October 2011 and a CoR plenary session on 10-12 October 2011. EESC rapporteurs of the opinion were invited to take part in debates and thematic panels during a conference on post-crisis sources of growth held in Warsaw on 15 November 2011.

Table 6. CoR and EESC away sessions, conferences and promotion events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Type of event</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8-9 September 2011</td>
<td>Poznań</td>
<td>Meeting of the Committee of Regions’ Bureau teamed up with a session of the Conference of Local and Regional Authorities for Eastern Partnership attended by Commissioner Stefan Füle</td>
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<tr>
<td>30 September 2011</td>
<td>Warsaw, Presidential Palace</td>
<td>‘Europe of active citizens: volunteers’ conference featuring President Bronislaw Komorowski, the Minister of Labour and Social Policy, Jolanta Fedak, Commissioner László Andor, the EESC President Staffan Nilsson, representatives of civil society from the EU and Eastern Partnership states.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Type of event</td>
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<tr>
<td>10-13 October 2011</td>
<td>Brussels</td>
<td>The 9th edition of Open Days – the European Week of Regions and Cities. Especially for this occasion, teamed up with all Polish regions, the Ministry of Regional Development hosted an event entitled ‘Polish Town’ in Parc du Cinquantenaire in Brussels, which showcased projects implemented in voivodeships in Poland with European Funds. Presentation vehicles included demonstrations, experiments, exhibitions, animations, etc. designed by beneficiaries of the cohesion policy as well as institutions responsible for implementation of European Funds.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 October 2011</td>
<td>Brussels</td>
<td>‘Urban dimension of cohesion policy’ conference held by regional offices in Brussels.</td>
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<tr>
<td>19-20 October 2011</td>
<td>Warsaw, Congress Hall</td>
<td>Away session of COTER Committee of the Regions’ Commission and the European Congress of Rural Municipalities: ‘Cohesion policy for rural areas beyond 2013’ hosted by Deputy Prime Minister Waldemar Pawlak and the President of the Committee of the Regions, Mercedes Bresso.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 November 2011</td>
<td>Brussels</td>
<td>‘TEN-T for smart and sustainable regional development’ conference organised by regional offices in Brussels.</td>
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<tr>
<td>9 November 2011</td>
<td>Brussels</td>
<td>‘Local and regional dimension of Eastern Partnership’ conference staged by regional offices in Brussels.</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 November 2011</td>
<td>Warsaw, Chancellery of the Prime Minister</td>
<td>EESC Bureau away session and ‘Sources of economic growth after the crisis’ conference featuring representatives of employer and employee organisations and non-government organisations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24-25 November 2011</td>
<td>Cracow</td>
<td>The 5th EESC seminar on media freedom and the quality of journalism in the EU and neighbouring states organised by the EESC Press Office as an official event accompanying the Polish Presidency under the auspices of the Representation of the European Commission in Poland.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2. Organisation of the preparations and the course of the Presidency
The process of estimating the costs of the Polish Presidency was conducted in 2008 and 2009. Following the basic guidelines agreed as part of the interdepartmental consultative and advisory team for the budget, the construction of the multiannual programme (of the budget for the Presidency) consisted of two parts: the central one, coordinated by the Government Plenipotentiary for the Presidency, and the ministerial one, which consisted of the ministries and central administration institutions’ own tasks as well as special tasks.

Estimation of the costs of financial tasks within the central budget was based on independently collected information (market analysis, experience of other presidencies, own guidelines).

The calculation of the central budget was based on specific guidelines that determined its volume and structure, i.e. all the meetings at ministerial or higher (meetings of Heads of State or Government) levels were organised by the services of the Plenipotentiary. The total cost of organisation of meetings at ministerial and higher level accounted among others for the costs of provision of conference centres, accommodation, catering, and transport of meeting participants, VIP services at airports, and also costs of translation/interpretation.

Questions including security of the meetings, construction of a system for circulation of classified information, provision of IT and telecommunications infrastructure, the cultural programme, reinforcement of the Permanent Representation of the Republic of Poland to the EU in Brussels as well as other diplomatic missions, and the motivational and loyalty systems were listed as special tasks, which were coordinated respectively by the responsible institutions in collaboration with the Plenipotentiary. The financial assets for carrying out these tasks were listed in the sectoral part of the programme.

An estimation of the costs of special tasks was performed at the Office of the Committee for European Integration on the grounds of independently gathered information (market analysis, experience of other presidencies, own guidelines) and also on the grounds of the data provided by some participating institutions, which were later verified in real time while the current guidelines and concepts of organisation of the Polish Presidency were taking shape.

The amounts earmarked for the financing of the so-called own tasks conducted by ministries and central institutions in relation to the preparations and course of the Presidency were defined on the grounds of the information provided by the respective sectors. To ensure uniform methodology of cost calculation by all the ministries and central institutions involved in the preparation and course of the Presidency, a document entitled ‘Wytyczne dla ministerstw i urzędów centralnych w sprawie szacowania kosztów związanych z organizacją i obsługą polskiego przewodnictwa w Radzie UE w II pol. 2011 r.’ [Guidelines for ministries and central institutions concerning the estimation of costs related to the organisation and providing services for the Polish Presidency of the EU Council] was generated at the Office of the Committee for European Integration in March 2009. On 2 March 2009, the document was approved by the European Committee of the Council of Ministers. It introduced standardisation of the procedure of estimating costs related to the Polish Presidency in ministries and central institutions. The guidelines were based on calculation methods approved by certain ministries (so-called good practices), market analysis, and own guidelines. With respect to the principles included in the document, ministries and central institutions present the Plenipotentiary with calculations of the volumes of funds required to finance the preparations and course of the Polish Presidency. Following the analytical work and verification by the Office of the Committee for European Integration and the Ministry of Finance concerning the Presidency budget (April 2009), additional premises and guidelines to the ‘Guidelines for ministries and central institutions concerning the estimation of costs related to the organisation and providing services for the Polish Presidency of the EU Council’ were presented to the members of the European Committee of the Council of Ministers together with a draft multiannual programme at the session on 9 June 2009.

Following the implementation of the process of estimation of costs related to the Polish Presidency, a draft multiannual programme entitled ‘Przygotowanie, obsługa i sprawowanie przewodnictwa Polski w Radzie Unii Europejskiej w II połowie 2011 r.’ [Preparation, provision of services, and course of the Polish Presidency of the EU Council in the second half of 2011] was prepared. The objective of the programme was to guarantee financing for the activities related to the preparation and course of the Polish Presidency of the EU Council in 2010–2012 by 24 ministries and central institutions.1

The draft multiannual programme was presented by the Plenipotentiary to the members of the European Committee of the Council of Ministers, Committee of the Council of Ministers and the Council of Ministers. It was officially approved by the Council of Ministers on 23 June 2009 by Act No. 113/2009. In the light of the above-mentioned act, the total value of the outlay for the implementation of the programme was defined at an approximate level of PLN 430 million. The sources of financing the programme, besides the budgetary funds, provided to the programme included:

included funds from Counterpart Funds, from the Local Grant Fund under Phare PL9903.01 ‘Initiative II’, from the International Organisation of La Francophonie, and also from the European Social Fund.

Following the guidelines approved at the stage of estimation of costs in the structure of the multiannual programme, the following parts were singled out:

a. the central part of the programme: covering the funds designated for the implementation of the following tasks:

1) providing services for the Government Plenipotentiary for the Preparation of Government Administration Bodies and for the Republic of Poland’s Presidency of the Council of the European Union
2) preparation of people participating in the implementation of tasks related to the Polish Presidency of the Council of the EU
3) organisation and provision of services at the meetings taking place during the Polish Presidency of the EU Council
4) promotional and information activities concerning the Presidency.

b. the sectoral part of the programme covering the funds designated for the implementation of the following tasks:

- own tasks
  1) organisation and providing services for expert meetings in the second half of 2011
  2) preparation of human resources
  3) translations and other office costs related to the Presidency
  4) other current expenditure
  5) provision of services for foreign meetings
  6) purchase of IT hardware and software for the needs of meetings related to the Presidency
  7) other events/accompanying events in Poland
  8) provision of services for foreign meetings by diplomatic missions
  9) provision of services for meetings with the participation of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Poland
  10) staff reinforcements of Permanent Representation of the Republic of Poland to the EU in Brussels and other diplomatic missions.

- special tasks
  1) cultural programme – a task coordinated by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage
  2) ensuring safety of meetings – a task coordinated by the Ministry of Interior

3) construction of a system for circulating classified information – a task coordinated by the Internal Security Agency
4) ICT infrastructure – a task coordinated by the Ministry of Administration and Digitalisation
5) Permanent Representation of the Republic of Poland to the EU in Brussels and other diplomatic missions – a task coordinated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
6) loyalty and motivation system – a task coordinated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

To ensure streamlined completion of tasks related to the Polish Presidency of the EU Council, the multiannual programme was amended as needed. The amendments in the multiannual programme included transferring finances from the areas that generated savings to the underestimated areas.

To implement the principles of using the financial assets of the multiannual programme and its handling – both in the central and the sectoral parts – in the office of the Plenipotentiary, a bylaw for the multiannual programme was developed. It defined, among others, the procedure of using the funds covered by the specific provisions and a joint system of reporting. The services of the Plenipotentiary conducted real-time monitoring concerning the spending of funds from the multiannual programme.

According to the clauses of the bylaw document, ministries and central institutions that were the beneficiaries of the programme made quarterly reports on the implementation of the multiannual programme and presented them to the Plenipotentiary. On the grounds of the individual reports provided, the Plenipotentiary generated aggregated reports on the implementation of the programme in individual quarters, which were presented for the acceptance of the members of the Committee of the Council of Ministers. Moreover, the Plenipotentiary also drafted aggregated reports from the implementation of the programme, broken down by task, which were presented to the Minister of Finance.

The multiannual programme was implemented to the draft budgetary acts in the individual years of the 2010–2012 period, in line with the regulations binding in public finances.

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1 Until 18 November 2011, the coordinator of the special task entitled Tele-IT Infrastructure was the Minister of Internal Affairs and Administration (Resolution of the Council of Ministers of 21 November 2011 concerning the establishment of the Ministry of Administration and Digitalisation – ‘Journal of Laws of the Republic of Poland’ of 2011, No. 250, item 1500).
To limit the financial burden on the state budget related to the preparation and provision of services for the Presidency, following the experiences of the previous presidencies, a procedure was designed for transparent selection and collaboration with business partners who became involved free of charge in the organisation and promotion of the Presidency. Activities aimed at acquisition of partners were conducted in line with ‘Regulamin z dn. 27.07.2010 r. w sprawie procedury wyboru partnerów nieodpłatnie wspierających organizację i promocję Prezydencji Polski w Radzie UE w drugiej połowie 2011 r.’ [Regulations of 27 July 2010 concerning the procedure for selecting partners supporting free of charge the organisation and promotion of the Polish Presidency of the EU Council in the second half of 2011], which was published on the Presidency preparation website, much like the information concerning the course of the procedure. From the beginning, the Commissioner for Anti-Corruption Procedures at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs participated in the work of the team responsible for selecting Presidency partners.

Interest in the partnership was announced by 14 businesses who proposed free-of-charge provision of services, mostly in the areas of transport, catering, and ICT. Analysing the bids submitted by businesses, the following aspects were especially taken into account:

» the comprehensive quality of the free services proposed;
» experience of the firm in providing the services proposed at meetings of a similar rank to Presidency meetings;
» using innovative technological solutions that influence environmental impact in the scope of the proposed services;
» running the business in line with the concept of corporate social responsibility and ethical principles.

As a result, six contracts were signed with businesses that were partners of the Presidency:

» Peugeot Polska sp. z o.o. leased 117 passenger cars as the Presidency fleet to cater for the most important meetings organised in Poland.
» Scania Polska SA leased 6 Scania Touring HD coaches for transporting VIP delegations during selected Presidency meetings.
» Coca-Cola Poland Services sp. z o.o. delivered over 100,000 litres of Kropla Beskidu water and other drinks to the most important meetings of the Presidency in Poland, and attractive containers for packaging waste segregation at conference venues. Additionally, the company provided over 40,000 litres of Kropla Beskidu water to the meetings in Brussels, together with delivery.

» PKN Orlen SA presented 150 prepaid fuel cards of the TANKBANK type to a total value of PLN 1,000,000. The cards allowed free-of-charge fuelling of the cars of the Presidency fleet while providing services for the most important meetings in Poland.
» Microsoft sp. z o.o. Poland provided 400 licences for the Windows 7 Ultimate operating system and 400 licences for MS Office Professional 2010. The delivered software was installed on hardware available for foreign delegations at Presidency venues.
» Contact Center sp. z o.o. (member of TP SA Group) leased over 100 mobile telephones with active SIM cards on Orange, 40 notebook + modem + active SIM card sets allowing the team organising Presidency meetings use mobile Internet on the Orange network. Additionally, the company provided foreign delegates with access to Orange hotspots at five Polish airports in Gdańsk, Wrocław, Cracow, Poznań, and Warsaw.

All the partners signed unilateral agreements, which were published on the Presidency preparation website. The estimated cost of the services received free of charge from partners, and therefore savings, exceeds PLN 10 million.
2.3. Management of human resources

2.3.1. Presidency Corps

Establishment of the Presidency Corps was envisaged in the ‘Programme of preparations’. The Corps consisted of the staff of ministries and central institutions and also units supervised by them who are experts in their respective fields. During the Presidency, they were meant to perform the function of presidents of working groups, their deputies, national delegates, and content coordinators. Moreover, included in the Corps were the people who in their institutions coordinated the organisational tasks concerning the Polish Presidency of the EU Council (organisation coordinators).

The guidelines containing profiles and initial competencies that people with individual functions in the Presidency Corps should play were designed in 2008. Moreover, the ministries were obliged to put forward lists of people (with names) who would be involved in the preparation and course of the Presidency. However, as the lists submitted greatly exceeded the expected volume of the Corps, a decision was made to assign (training) limits in the Corps.

The sectors made submissions and updates of the Corps in line with the assigned limit of expert and organisational positions. The initial competencies of a Corps member and his or her expert knowledge were verified at the level of the submitting institution. The submissions allowed the establishment of a database of approximately 1200 people who formed the Presidency Corps. They were trained as part of the central training. It was assumed that the people who would hold functions during the Presidency should be the first to undergo the training, and ergo also be admitted to the Corps.

Nevertheless, some sectors built a far more numerous Presidency Corps, which encompassed all the people involved in the preparation and course of the Presidency in the given institution. The central training covered the people with the greatest training needs in the scope of envisaged tasks and skills.

One of the greatest challenges in the building and operation of the Presidency Corps was maintaining its stability. The motivating tools implemented by both the Plenipotentiary and the individual institutions did not eliminate the churn of human resources entirely. Partially, it was, however, related to the natural churn of human resources in ministries and central institutions. The very process of preparation for the Presidency was a long-term process of exceeding dynamics, while changes in the Corps also resulted from the modification of the concept of organisation of preparations in the sectors.

Additionally, in some sectors decisions were made to establish, besides the central Corps, the so-called B Corps, consisting of the people who were sent to training sessions organised by their own means. This staff provided the fall-back corps.

2.3.1.1. Motivation and loyalty system

The motivation and loyalty system for the government administration staff involved in the preparation and course of the Presidency was envisaged in the ‘Programme Przygotowań Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej do Objęcia i Sprawowania Przewodnictwa w Radzie Unii Europejskiej’ [Programme of preparation of the Republic of Poland to take up and carry out the Presidency of the EU Council] approved by the Council of Ministers on 13 January 2009.

Implementation of the system was meant on the one hand to broaden the knowledge and skills of these officers, and on the other to provide the administration with a guarantee of being retained at least until the completion of the tasks related to the Presidency of the EU Council. Development of a single motivation and loyalty system for the entire governmental administration was necessary for a number of reasons, of which the most important was the involvement of the best prepared and motivated people, and at the same time retaining a relatively permanent core of such staff, which was required for the cohesion of the actions conducted, optimisation of the outlay, and high quality of work.

The introduced system of motivations was composed of two parts: training (described in detail below) and financial.

The financial part encompassed the payment of an additional element of remuneration in 2011 and 2012. The criteria and principles for division of funds among institutions involved in the preparation for the Presidency and conducting the multianual programme were defined and approved by the Committee for European Affairs on 15 June 2010.

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4 The guidelines were Annex No. 3 to the ‘Raport w sprawie stanu przygotowań administracji publicznej do objęcia Prezydencji w RUE w II połowie 2011 r.’ [Report on the status of the preparation of the public administration for taking up the Presidency in the EU Council in the second half of 2011], which was approved by the European Committee of the Council of Ministers at a session on 15 July 2008.

5 The division of limits was approved in the document entitled ‘Informacja w sprawie określenia dla instytucji uczestniczących w przygotowaniach do Przewodnictwa w Radzie UE limitów zgłoszeń do Korpusu Prezydencji, objętego systemem szkoleń centralnych’ [Information concerning the definition of limits of submissions to the Presidency Corps covered by the system of central training for institutions participating in the preparations for the Presidency in the EU Council] approved by the European Committee of the Council of Ministers on 12 May 2009. ‘Informacja w sprawie podziału zasobów miejsc rezerwowych dla Korpusu Prezydencji’ [Information concerning the division of spare training capacity for Presidency Corps] approved by the Committee for European Affairs on 15 June 2010.
2.3. Management of human resources

2.3.2. Training

Training was a non-financial element of the motivation and loyalty system. In line with the guidelines of the ‘Program Przygotowań Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej do Objęcia i Sprawowania Przewodnictwa w Radzie Unii Europejskiej’ [Programme of preparation of the Republic of Poland to take up and carry out the Presidency of the EU Council], approved by the Council of Ministers on 13 January 2009, the following were organised as part of training for the Presidency:

- central training sessions for the Presidency Corps (training providing knowledge about the European Union, soft skills courses, and language training in English and French);
- training for other target groups (training for the Permanent Representation of the Republic of Poland to the EU in Brussels, consultations in decision-making processes in the EU, and individual specialist English language workshops for ministers, secretaries, and undersecretaries of state; seminars and workshops in knowledge about the European Union and the decision-making process for the people involved in carrying out the Presidency; training for liaison officers);
- internships and study visits.

2.3.2.1. Central training for the Presidency Corps:

» Specialist training in general knowledge of the legal system, institutional set-up, and decision-making process in the European Union

The concept of the project was to provide knowledge concerning horizontal aspects in the legal system, institutional set-up, and decision-making process in the European Union to the future chairs of EU Council working groups, and to the national delegates and coordinators involved in the EU decision-making process, already equipped with specialist knowledge in the area of operation of the given sector. The goal of the training was to provide theoretical grounds and unification of trainees’ knowledge in the areas mentioned above, before they embarked on the training in practical skills (so-called soft training), providing the subsequent element of the central training programme.

The provider of the training was Poland’s National School of Public Administration (KSAP). Participating in the training project in the capacity of lecturers were both academic experts and members of the faculty representing Polish university centres and Polish and foreign representatives of state in the EU administration.

Implementation of the training course began in October 2009 and lasted till the end of December 2010. Altogether organised at the time were 40 training sessions in 20 training groups (altogether 100 training days within the project). Every participant of the course received five days of training in two thematic modules:

- Module 1: training in the EU legal system (two-day session).
- Module 2: training in EU institutions and decision-making process (three-day session).

Moreover, every participant of the course received, besides the set of training materials and individual presentations prepared by the lecturers, a set of nine book publications (also published on a CD) designed especially for the project, and including a bilingual collection of organisation documents of EU institutions, the consolidated version of the Treaty of Lisbon with an introduction, and a proprietary publication concerning the Presidency.

Altogether, the number of training participants was 1033, of whom 975 received completion certificates (the condition being participation in at least three full days of classes out of the five days offered to every participant as part of the course). The certificate of participation in training sessions was awarded to more than 90% of all the participants compared to the number of places offered to the institutions.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs provided current monitoring of training implementation. Based on the aggregated results of the questionnaires provided by the participants, the average grade of the training amounted to 7 points on a scale ranging from 1 to 10.
» Specialist training in the practical aspects of participation of Polish governmental administration in the EU decision-making process

Specialist training in the practical aspects of participation of Polish governmental administration in the decision-making process of the EU (so-called soft training) was conducted from June 2010 to January 2011 by a consortium of three foreign training institutions of renown (the Diplomatic Academy in Vienna, the College of Europe in Bruges, and the Clingendael Institute in The Hague). The institutions were involved in training the staff for the Presidency in Slovenia, Belgium, Sweden, the Czech Republic, Austria, etc.

Co-financed from the funds of the European Social Fund, the project was conducted as part of the Human Capital Operational Programme. It was a proprietary project of the 2nd Level Intermediate Body (IB2) – the Chancellery of The Prime Minister – conducted in partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The ministry was responsible for the expert part of the project, including recruitment of training participants. The Chancellery, as leader of the project, was responsible among other things for the financing and clearing of the project, procurement procedures, payments for contractors, and project reporting.

Conducted in English, the training aimed to improve the skills of the Presidency Corps (so-called soft skills), including negotiation techniques, chairing sessions of EU Council working groups, managing the flow of information, conflict resolution, and drafting and editing documents.

- Module 1: Practical aspects of participation and chairing EU working groups (36 training sessions; two-day sessions)
- Module 2: Negotiation techniques in European environment and interpersonal skills (35 training sessions; three-day sessions)
- Module 3: Managing the EU Presidency in Poland (15 training sessions; two-day sessions).

The target group of the project comprised of up to 1200 members of the Presidency Corps divided into the following training profiles: chairs and deputy chairs of working groups, national delegate/expert coordinator (expert group, up to 850 people), and organisation coordinators. At the conclusion of the project, its participants received certificates and CD-ROMs with complete training materials.

Monitoring of the implementation of the soft-skills training timetable was conducted through quarterly reports and a final report. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs monitored participation in training sessions. The information was later passed on to the ministries and institutions. Training sessions were evaluated after each session, with the evaluation being based on the opinion of participants, as expressed in the questionnaires. The average total mark for training was 4.51 points on a scale from 1 to 5.

» Language training for the Presidency Corps

Language training sessions for the Presidency Corps covered specialist group training in English and French. The training in English was compulsory, with exemptions for people capable of providing valid proof of knowledge of the foreign language at the required target level and people who achieved the target level during the training. French training was of an optional character: solely for interested persons.

Language training was conducted for three semesters (October 2009 – January 2010, February – June 2010, and September – December 2010). The operator of the English training was Berlitz Poland, and the French training was conducted by the Institut Français in Warsaw. The training sessions were co-financed by the International Organisation of La Francophonie, as part of the contract ‘Memorandum w sprawie wprowadzenia programu nauczania języka francuskiego w administracji polskiej’ [Memorandum on the introduction of a French language curriculum for the Polish administration], concluded on 27 November 2008. The parties to the memorandum were the Republic of Poland, the International Organisation of La Francophonie (Organisation internationale de la Francophonie, OIF), the French Republic, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, and the French Community of Belgium.

The subject of the training sessions pertained to questions related to the European Union, the Presidency of the EU Council, diplomacy, international relations, and also legal and administrative terminology.

Monitoring of the implementation of the language training agenda was conducted through semester reports on attendance and progress of the training participants. A report on attendance at language classes was also prepared every month.

Evaluation of training was conducted after each semester, on the grounds of the opinions of participants expressed in evaluation questionnaires. The training in English was assessed rather positively by its participants, with the average total mark for the training amounting to 3.78 points on a scale from 1 to 6. The training in French was assessed very positively. Based on the aggregated result from the questionnaires provided by the participants, the average total mark for the training in three semesters amounted to 5.06 points on a scale from 1 to 6. What deserved special attention was the high educational level of the training, its careful adjustment to the needs of the participants, and meeting the requirements of the highly specialist subject range.

Summary data concerning the training for the Presidency Corps are presented in Table 7.
### 2.3. Management of human resources

#### Table 7. Central training for the Presidency Corps

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Training for the Presidency Corps</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1.</strong> Specialist training in general knowledge of the legal system, institutional set-up, and decision-making process in the European Union</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provider</td>
<td>Poland’s National School of Public Administration (KSAP)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of participants</td>
<td>1033 people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Period of implementation</td>
<td>October 2009 – December 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of hours or training sessions</td>
<td>40 training sessions (in 2 modules – 20 training sessions each); altogether 28.5 hours of training per participant (5 days)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of certificates issued</td>
<td>975 certificates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training evaluation (by participants)</td>
<td>7 points (on a scale from 1 to 10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2.</strong> Specialist training in the practical aspects of participation of Polish governmental administration in the EU decision-making process</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provider</td>
<td>Diplomatic Academy in Vienna, College of Europe in Bruges, Clingendael Institute in The Hague</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of participants</td>
<td>Target group: 1200 members of the Presidency Corps; Module 1 – 772 people, Module 2 – 729 people, Module 3 – 270 people.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Period of implementation</td>
<td>June 2010 – January 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of hours or training sessions</td>
<td>Module 1 – 36 training sessions (2 days), Module 2 – 35 training sessions (3 days), Module 3 – 15 training sessions (2 days).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of certificates issued</td>
<td>1656 training completion certificates issued: 733 certificates for Module 1, 658 certificates for Module 2, and 265 certificates for Module 3.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training evaluation (by participants)</td>
<td>Average overall mark for the training – 4.51 points (on a scale from 1 to 5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>3.</strong> Specialist English training for public administration employees for the Polish Presidency of the EU Council in the second half of 2011</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provider</td>
<td>Berlitz Poland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of participants</td>
<td>On average over 700 people per semester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of hours or training sessions</td>
<td>180 hours, i.e. 60 classes per semester per group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of certificates issued</td>
<td>1240 training completion certificates and 296 training participation certificates (in the case of insufficient attendance, failure of the semester exam, and/or failure to take the exam).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training evaluation (by participants)</td>
<td>Average overall mark for the training – 3.78 points (on a scale from 1 to 6)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4. Specialist French training for public administration employees for the Polish Presidency of the EU Council in the second half of 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Provider</th>
<th>Institut Français in Warsaw</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of participants</td>
<td>On average over 200 people per semester (in 24 training groups)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of hours or training sessions</td>
<td>180 hours, i.e. 60 classes per semester per group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of certificates issued</td>
<td>363 training completion certificates and 112 training participation certificates (in the case of insufficient attendance, failure of the semester exam, and/or failure to take the exam).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training evaluation (by participants)</td>
<td>Average overall mark for the training – 5.06 points (on a scale from 1 to 6)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.3.2.2. Training for other target groups

» Training for the Permanent Representation of the Republic of Poland to the EU in Brussels

The staff of the Permanent Representation of the Republic of Poland to the EU in Brussels who were members of the Presidency Corps were covered by a programme of training in soft skills (the practical aspects of participation of Polish governmental administration in the EU decision-making process) in 2010.

Also organised was a one-day training seminar concerning the legal aspects of the operation of the Presidency (delivered by the Academy of European Law), while the Centre For Political and Diplomatic Studies trained the staff of the Permanent Representation of the Republic of Poland to the EU in Brussels in matters related to media contacts and covering areas including presentation skills and public speaking. Thanks to the collaboration with the Diplomatic Protocol, a two-day training session in diplomatic protocol was also conducted.

Moreover, the staff of the Permanent Representation of the Republic of Poland to the EU were provided with specialist language training in Brussels. Specialist training in the French language, delivered by the Alliance Française in Brussels, covered areas including EU terminology; the honing of communication skills in chairing workgroups, meetings, and sessions with elements of negotiation; communication with the media; and drafting and interpreting documents in French. The training workshop in the English language concerning specialist vocabulary, creation of documents, chairing of sessions and meetings, and public addresses was conducted by the English Academy, a language school specialising in language education of human resources in administration. Also organised were six-week-long English training sessions concerning working with documents for people holding secretarial and assistant posts.

In 2011, the Directorate General for Interpretation (DG SCIC) conducted a series of training workshops for chairs and deputy chairs of working groups. These allowed participants to improve their skills and better their competencies in public speaking. To streamline collaboration between the delegates and translators/interpreters, DG SCIC established a special contact address to send materials for interpreters for working group sessions.

Besides the above, a number of working and study visits took place in 2010. Organised for the individual sectors, they aimed at becoming familiar with the operation and organisation of work in the EU Council for the preparation for chairing the EU Council.

» Consultation meetings in the decision-making process in the European Union for ministers, secretaries, and undersecretaries of state

A series of consultation meetings in the EU decision-making process for ministries, secretaries, and undersecretaries of state took place from April to July 2011, and involved the participation of experts from EU institutions and the Burson-Marsteller Brussels agency. It included horizontal meetings addressed to the members of the Council of Ministers and the Committee for European Affairs (two meetings each) and also theme-based meetings organised at the request of the interested sectors (four meetings).

The theme of the series was the role and tasks of the rotating Presidency and collaboration with EU institutions as part of the decision-making process in the European Union. Special emphasis was placed on the role of constitutional ministers and secretaries and undersecretaries of state for European affairs, representing the individual
sections of public administration of the state presiding over the Council of the European Union.

Speakers included experts from the General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union, the European Commission, and the European Parliament (including Polish representatives of these institutions holding managerial positions). The list of the speakers was drawn up in arrangement with the General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union and also with the experts of the European Parliament and the European Commission. Responsible for the implementation of the consultations was the Department of the EU Presidency Coordination in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Horizontal meetings

As part of the series, two horizontal meetings for the members of the Council of Ministers and two meetings for the members of the Committee for European Affairs were organised. The members of the latter were also invited to one of the meetings for the members of the Council of Ministers. The meetings were organised on the fringes of the sessions of the Council of Ministers (in collaboration with the Council of Ministers Department in the Chancellery of the Prime Minister) as well as the sessions of the Committee for European Affairs. The subject range of the meetings included collaboration between EU institutions and the rotating Presidency, the role of the General Affairs Council after the Treaty of Lisbon, the role of the General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union in its capacity as a partner of the Presidency, the decision-making process in the EU (including the procedure of co-decision, collaboration within COREPER I, and collaboration with the European partner), and the know-how of the Presidency.

Table 8. Subject range of the seminars and workshops organised

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Seminar and workshop themes</th>
<th>Organised in collaboration with</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Presiding over working groups during the Presidency of the EU Council</td>
<td>European Institute of Public Administration EIPA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presiding over working groups of the EU Council in the context of the Presidency: tasks of working group chairs and their deputies, and simulations of negotiations in EU institutions</td>
<td>Ecole Nationale d’Administration CEES-ENA as part of the project by the Organisation internationale de la Francophonie (International Organisation of La Francophonie)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coordination of the Presidency of the EU Council</td>
<td>Irish Institute of Public Administration IPA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Irish experience in the preparation and carrying out the Presidency of the EU Council</td>
<td>Irish Institute of Public Administration IPA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Practical aspects of applying regular legislative procedure in the EU decision-making process</td>
<td>General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union, European Commission, and European Parliament</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The role and tasks of the Presidency after the Treaty of Lisbon</td>
<td>Ecole Nationale d’Administration CEES-ENA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The procedure of co-deciding and negotiation mechanisms during the decision-making process in EU institutions</td>
<td>Ecole Nationale d’Administration CEES-ENA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2.3.2.3. Internships and study visits

Preparation for the Presidency provided the opportunity to participate in internships as part of programmes conducted by EU institutions:

» the programme of structural internships in the European Commission
» the programme of internships in the General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union.

With the collection and preservation of the most crucial information gained during internships and study visits in mind, a list was drawn up of good practices named in reports by the participants. The list was made available on the extranet of the Presidency, to which all the members of the Presidency Corps had access.

Conducted in 2009 was a central programme of financing of the internships and study visits from the specific provisions of the state budget for 2009. It was coordinated by the Government Plenipotentiary for the Preparation of Administrative Agencies and Poland’s Presidency of the Council of the EU. As part of the programme, altogether 50 internships projects were conducted for 21 public administration institutions.

The financing of the costs incurred by covering the internships and study visits in 2010 and 2011 was included in the multiannual programme in the sectoral part. The individual sectors drafted their own plans for specialist training, study visits, and internships preparing their staff for carrying out the Presidency. On these grounds, appropriate financial assets were reserved as part of the multiannual programme.

2.3.3. Human resources reinforcements of administration and foreign missions

The new character of tasks and the major burden on the personnel of administration entailed by the preparation and course of the Presidency proved the need for temporary reinforcements in the human resources of national administration and diplomatic missions. The justification for such a reinforcement also stemmed from the experience of the states that held their presidencies earlier. To achieve this, a reinforcement of national administration was envisaged by delegating the staff of EU institutions, and also a reinforcement of foreign missions by delegating additional experts from the country.

2.3.3.1. Delegation of staff from EU institutions to the Polish administration for the period of the Polish Presidency

During the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union, there was an option to use the support of officers delegated from EU institutions. Much like other countries holding the Presidency earlier, Poland decided to take this opportunity.

Towards the end of 2010, the European Commission decided to delegate 10 officers to the Polish administration for the duration of the Presidency, while the General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union delegated one officer. They carried out tasks in the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and at the Permanent Representation of the Republic of Poland to the EU in Brussels.

2.3.3.2. Reinforcement of the Permanent Representation of the Republic of Poland to the EU and of other diplomatic missions

‘Program Przygotowań Rzeczpospolitej Polskiej do Objęcia i Sprawowania Przewodnictwa w Radzie Unii Europejskiej’ [Programme of preparation of the Republic of Poland for taking up and carrying out the Presidency of the EU Council] assumed the reinforcement of the staff of the Permanent Representation of the Republic of Poland to the EU and of some diplomatic missions. It was to cover the period directly preceding the Presidency and the Presidency itself, and pertain on the one hand to expert and on the other to secretarial and assistant posts. The additional human resources made it possible to prepare the institutions duly for the Presidency, and to ensure the necessary level of managing tasks during the Presidency.

In the case of bilateral missions, especially those that participated in the implementation of the Eastern Partnership were reinforced, as well as those where the need to reinforce the representation was significant from the point of view of the EU agenda. Moreover, reinforcement was required in the states in which Poland held a local presidency, and also wherever there was the need to provide expert support to the mission in the matters related to providing services for participation in international organisations. The diplomatic missions covered by the reinforcement through expert support are listed in the table below.
2.3. Management of human resources

The work on designing a detailed model, mode, and also size of the reinforcement of the Permanent Representation of the Republic of Poland to the EU in Brussels and diplomatic missions for the duration of the Presidency was embarked on in 2010.7 Especially valuable was the deployment of future chairs of working groups serviced from Brussels, people supporting the chairs of the groups, and also the coordinators of certain subject areas. The number of people delegated by the ministries to the Permanent Representation of the Republic of Poland to the EU in Brussels and other diplomatic missions as well as the period of their delegation and the functions they filled while delegated and the scope of the tasks concluded have been determined.

The names submitted by the sectors provided the grounds for the development of a list of delegates who reinforced the diplomatic missions. The delegates were covered by a system of pre-mission training, prepared and carried out by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The staff leaving for the Permanent Representation of the Republic of Poland to the EU in Brussels were loaned free of charge ICT hardware, compatible with that of the Permanent Representation of the Republic of Poland to the EU, for the period of delegation, to provide efficient communication and ensure the completion of the tasks entrusted to them.

The people reinforcing the human resources in the scope of assistant and secretarial tasks during the missions in 2011 were employed on the power of commission contracts concluded for a period of one year (or shorter). Delegation of these people to the missions made it possible to provide appropriate support of expert staff involved, among others, in providing services for the organs preparing the EU Council.

As part of this task, altogether 83 people were delegated to the Permanent Representation of the Republic of Poland to the EU, while 48 people conducted tasks of an assistant and secretarial nature. The remaining diplomatic missions were additionally reinforced with 46 delegated people and 17 people carrying out assistant and secretarial tasks.

7 The documents ‘Stałe Przedstawicielstwo RP przy UE w Brukseli i inne placówki dyplomatyczne. Wzmocnienie kadrowe na czas Prezydencji. Część 1-4’ [Permanent Representation of the Republic of Poland to the EU in Brussels and other diplomatic missions. Staff reinforcement for the duration of the Presidency. Parts 1–4], approved by the Committee for European Affairs on 19 March 2010, 2 June 2010, 6 July 2010, and 21 December 2010 respectively.

### Table 9. The list of missions with staff reinforcements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Venue of delegation</th>
<th>Number of people delegated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Addis Ababa</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Pyongyang</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Tehran</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Astana</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Baku</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Yerevan</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Beijing</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Pretoria</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Rome</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Skopje</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Tashkent</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Tirana</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Representation of the Republic of Poland to the Palestinian National Authority (Ramallah)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permanent Representation of the Republic of Poland to the United Nations Office in Geneva</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permanent Representation of the Republic of Poland to the United Nations Office and OSCE in Vienna</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permanent Representation of the Republic of Poland to the OECD in Paris</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permanent Representation of the Republic of Poland to the UN in New York</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permanent Representation of the Republic of Poland to the Council of Europe in Strasbourg</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permanent Representation of the Republic of Poland to the EU in Brussels</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permanent Representation of the Republic of Poland to the UNESCO in Paris</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>129</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2.4. Organisation of meetings

2.4.1. Meetings in Poland

The Presidency of the Council of the European Union featured 452 national meetings included in its official calendar, among them 50 that took place in the conference centres of the Polish Presidency. That number should be augmented by the 273 events covered by the patronage of the Polish Presidency, and also the projects conducted as part of the official cultural programme (see also Chapter 2.5.9. Cultural programme).

2.4.1.1. Planning logistics

The organisational preparations related to the servicing of the meetings to be held in Poland, and the work on the calendar for these began more than 30 months before Poland assumed the Presidency of the EU Council.

In November 2008, the Plenipotentiary invited representatives of regional authorities to nominate conference venues where the most important meetings with the participation of representatives of all European Union Member States were to take place during the Polish Presidency. The interdepartmental commission, established as part of the consultative and advisory team for logistics and security, composed of representatives of the Chancellery of the Prime Minister (including Government Information Centre), Ministry of Interior and Administration (including the Government Protection Bureau, the Police, the Polish State Fire Service), the Diplomatic Protocol, and also the Office of the Committee for European Integration, selected from the proposals submitted the venues that best met the criteria of transport infrastructure quality, accommodation facilities, technical furnishing, and security. The result of the work of the commission was a document entitled ‘Obiekty rekomendowane jako miejsca spotkań krajowych podczas polskiej Prezydencji w Radzie Unii Europejskiej w 2011 r.’ [Venues recommended as national meeting places during the Polish Presidency of the European Union Council in 2011]. It was approved by the Council of Ministers on 29 June 2009, and provided the grounds to embark on talks with the operators of the selected conferencing venues. The negotiations were concluded by signing contracts concerning the hiring of:

- the Conference Centre of the Sheraton Sopot Hotel in Sopot
- Centennial Hall, together with the Regional Centre of Business Tourism in Wrocław
- Auditorium Maximum of the Jagiellonian University in Cracow
- selected pavilions of the Poznań International Fair in Poznań
- the Copernicus Science Centre in Warsaw.

Moreover, the document entitled ‘Venues recommended...’ also defined the concept of organising the main national meetings in various regions of the country. The concept was based on renting the conference venues mentioned above in successive months and transferring the conference centre of the Polish Presidency between them. This resulted from, on the one hand, a desire to increase the attractiveness of the Polish Presidency in the eyes of the EU partners, and on the other, the intention to take this opportunity to promote Polish regions as fully as possible. The timetable of the use of individual conference venues is presented in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Conference centre</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1-31 July 2011</td>
<td>Conference Centre of the Sheraton Hotel, Sopot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-7 September 2011</td>
<td>Conference Centre of the Sheraton Hotel, Sopot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8-30 September 2011</td>
<td>Centennial Hall, Wrocław</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-31 October 2011</td>
<td>Auditorium Maximum, Cracow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-30 November 2011</td>
<td>Poznań International Fair, Poznań</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-31 December 2011</td>
<td>Copernicus Science Centre, Warsaw</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The remaining venues and cities listed in the document entitled ‘Venues recommended...’ were to provide fall-back centres that could be used in the case of conference centres not being set up in one of the main locations listed above, or in another extraordinary situation.

Due to the need to economise on the costs of organisation of meetings and also the planned centralisation of orders for conferencing services, all meetings of ministerial rank as well as selected major conferences, requiring special logistical effort, were to be organised in the nominated conference centres. Following the idea to use the rented premises at the optimal level, the organisation of other Presidency events was also allowed in these venues, including lower-level meetings, on the condition...
2.4. Organisation of meetings

The timetable for using the given premises would allow that. Graph 1 presents the number of meetings organised in the conference centres listed above.8

Graph 1. Meetings in central conference venues

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Venue</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wrocław</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cracow</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warsaw</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sopot</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poznań</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

At the same time, central institutions and other interested bodies were given the opportunity to make independent selections of venues for the needs of the meetings they organised.

The detailed ‘Lista spotkań krajowych i zagranicznych planowanych do organizacji podczas polskiej prezydencji w Radzie Unii Europejskiej’ [List of national and international meetings planned to be organised during the Polish Presidency of the Council of the EU] was approved by the Committee for European Affairs on 28th June 2011.

At the time, the list included 447 meetings planned in Poland. That number also contained the informal sessions of the EU Council and meetings of ministers, conferences, and expert meetings (including workshops, seminars, and visits of attachés) as well as accompanying events, but also – as agreed with the Chancellery of the Sejm – meetings within the framework of the parliamentary dimension of the Presidency. Following the updates performed after the submissions from the individual ministries and central institutions, 452 meetings were eventually conducted in Poland.9

As part of the work conducted in 2010 to define the guidelines for security of the meetings planned for the course of the Polish Presidency, the Team for Safety and Security of the Polish Preparations and Presidency of the Council of the European Union in 2011 divided these meetings from the point of view of the required security level. Approved as a result was the division into the following four categories:

» Category I – meetings with the participation of Heads of State or Government,
» Category II – meetings with the participation of ministers of interior affairs, foreign affairs, national defence or their counterparts,
» Category III – meetings with the participation of other ministers,
» Category IV – meetings with no participation of ministers (expert level).

2.4.1.2. Statistics of meetings in Poland

Singled out from the 452 meetings organised in Poland were nine events (including four meetings of Category I security level and five meetings of Category II security level, of which one was protected by the Military Police) over which the Government Protection Bureau extended protection. Of the number of meetings protected by the police forces, 41 meetings were classified as Category III security level, and 402 meetings as Category IV.

The largest number of meetings – 250 – took place in Warsaw, followed by Cracow (72), Tricity (45), Poznań (21), and Wrocław (17).

September and October proved to be the busiest months, as 134 and 127 meetings respectively were held in the two months. The number of official Presidency events in the remaining months amounted to 90 in November, 68 in July, 31 in December, and 2 in August.

2.4.1.3. Meetings under the patronage of the Presidency

Meetings under the patronage of the Polish Presidency were also held in the second half of 2011. The patronage of the Polish Presidency was extended over the projects whose implementation was related to the priorities of the Polish Presidency and helped its promotion in Poland and abroad. These events involved the operation of local communities for the sake of the Polish Presidency, and not only enriched its cultural programme and artistic setting, but also presented the opportunities to co-decide about the directions and shape of the process of European integration by Poland and the Polish people. A significant factor taken into consideration during investigation of the projects was the contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Polish Presidency and the presentation of opportunities and options for citizens resulting from European integration.

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8 The complete list of meetings organised in the central conference venues of the Presidency is Annex No. 1 to this document.
9 To allow changes to be made in the official Presidency calendar during the execution of the Presidency, an updating procedure was developed and approved by the Committee for European Affairs at a session on 1 April 2011, in a document entitled ‘Zasady dokonywania zmian w kalendarzu polskiej Prezydencji w Radzie UE w 2011 r.’ [Principles for introducing changes to the calendar of the Polish Presidency in the EU Council in 2011]. Most submissions concerned changing or fine-tuning various meeting parameters, such as date and time, name, and event description. There were single cases of submitting the need for canceling or addition of extra meetings.
The Ministry of Foreign Affairs received altogether 465 applications for patronage of the Polish Presidency, of which number 286 (including 13 concerning events overseas) were assessed positively. More information can be found in point 2.5.7 – Patronages of the Polish Presidency 2011.

2.4.2. Logistics of meetings in Poland

In line with the ‘Zasady organizacji spotkań planowanych podczas polskiego przewodnictwa w Radzie UE w 2011 r.’ [Rules for organising meetings planned during the Polish Presidency of EU Council in 2011] document, all the meetings held in Poland and entered into the Presidency agenda were divided into three groups, distinguished by the manner of organisation, namely: central meetings; meetings for whose needs Presidency conference venues were made available; and expert meetings. The central meetings, which included all the informal sessions of the Council of the European Union and meetings of the ministers, were supported logistically by the office providing services to the Plenipotentiary. The meetings for whose needs Presidency conference venues were made available were as a rule supported by the institution that applied for their organisation, with support from the Plenipotentiary. The expert meetings were as a rule organised independently by the institutions that submitted them. They could, however, use the systems of participant accreditation and hotel reservations provided by the office providing services for the Plenipotentiary. At selected meetings (mostly central), presents and information and promotional materials were provided, while at all remaining meetings, information and promotional materials and literature with visual identification of the Polish Presidency were distributed. Information about the planned events was published on the official website www.pl2011.eu.

Catering for the meetings of the highest rank, the office offering services to the Plenipotentiary provided:
- an online system for participant accreditation
- an access system to conference venues, including the printing of IDs
- booking of hotel rooms
- care from liaison officers
- VIP assistance at airports
- means of transport and transfers of participants
- decoration of conference venues and provision with furniture and IT and technical equipment
- preparation and current conference services for meetings
- permanent assistance in matters of protocol from the Diplomatic Protocol
- translation and interpretation services, especially simultaneous interpretation, together with the necessary equipment
- organisation of official dinners and catering at the conference venue
- organisation of a cultural and artistic programme for meeting participants, and optional programme for accompanying persons
- conference materials, presents, publications, and elements of visual identification.

2.4.2.1. Participant accreditation and access to conference venues

The system for accreditation of participants and access to conference venues, besides central meetings, was also provided at the majority of the remaining meetings held at the conference venues of the Presidency and at 20 expert meetings. Accredited to the meetings of the Presidency held in its main conference venues were 23,783 participants and 2,150 representatives of the media. Altogether over 17,000 IDs with names were produced (including approximately 1400 for media representatives), as well as a few hundred passes for cars. The printing of IDs for the meetings protected by the Government Protection Bureau was performed by the Bureau, in accordance with the lists provided by the office working for the Plenipotentiary.

2.4.2.2. Booking of hotel rooms

The booking system of the Polish Presidency was used from July to December 2011 by nearly 5000 meeting participants. The hotel booking system covered 96 out of the 452 events taking place in Poland.

As a rule, the Polish Presidency covered the cost of hotel accommodation for the head of delegation (optionally, together with an accompanying person) and for one member of the delegation (the so-called 1+1 format).

2.4.2.3. Liaison Officers

The head of every official delegation arriving at a centrally organised top-level meeting had a liaison officer assigned. The officer welcomed the head of delegation at the VIP lounge at the airport (and also escorted them

10 Booking is construed as making an individual reservation using the eu.odkryjpolske.pl or eu.discover-poland.pl system provided by Polish Travel Quo Vadis by the guest, or a booking made by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (in cases when the guest’s accommodation was covered by the Presidency) completed, i.e. not cancelled by the guest of the Ministry before the beginning of the Presidency meeting.
2.4. Organisation of meetings

there for departure), assured seamless organisation of transport for the delegation, and accompanied the head of delegation during all the items on the official agenda, at the same time remaining in direct contact with the people responsible for individual organisational aspects.

To cater for the needs described above, 80 liaison of- ficers, fluent in Polish and English and also in the official languages of the countries represented by the individual delegations participating in the meetings during the Polish Presidency, were recruited.

In May and June 2011 training for operation coordi- nators and liaison officers providing services for foreign delegations during the Polish Presidency was conducted. Participating in them were 80 liaison officers and organisation co-ordinators.

The objective of the training was to present the liaison officers with practical guidelines concerning their tasks and their role during the Polish Presidency, accounting for matters related to ensuring security at the meetings and of the delegates themselves, providing transport services for the delegation, questions of protocol, media services, promotion of the Presidency, and meetings in the green standard (greening).

Speakers at the training sessions were representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Interior and Administration, the uniformed services (BOR [Government Protection Bureau], KGP [Polish Police Headquarters], KGSG [Polish Border guard], ABW [The Internal Security Agency]), and also a former liaison officer who had provided services for the Polish delega- tions during the Spanish and Portuguese Presidencies.

Liaison officers were involved in the organisation of 31 meetings.

2.4.2.4. Airports and VIP lounges

The official delegations arriving at the most important meetings of the Polish Presidency of the EU Council were given the opportunity to use a VIP lounge at entry and departure from Poland. The Polish Presidency covered the cost of service and use of the lounge by the chair and the accompanying members of the delegation in a form appropriate for the given meeting.

Delegates not covered by the VIP procedure went through the usual route of customs and passport control. They had at their disposal the Polish EU Presidency Information Point situated in a generally accessible part of the airport, where volunteers provided them with assistance and organisational support.

In addition, the delegates were able to use Wi-Fi access to the Internet. Access to the hotspots at Gdańsk, Wrocław, Cracow, Poznań, and Warsaw airports was provided by Contact Center sp. z o.o., a member of the TP Group and an official partner of the Polish Presidency. The tokens activating the service were available from the Polish EU Presidency Information Point.

Altogether, there were 4075 visits to the VIP lounge, including approximately 2100 in Gdańsk, approximately 110 in Wrocław, 314 in Cracow, 387 in Poznań, and 174 in Warsaw. The largest group of people handled during a single meeting in a VIP lounge was approximately 400 during the informal JHA Council in Sopot.

2.4.2.5. Transport

Members of official delegations were provided with transport in the format approved for the given meeting (maximum 1+5) on the route airport – hotel – confer- ence venue – dinner venue – airport. As a rule, the delega- tion had at its disposal one limousine (for the chair of the delegation) and one minibus (for the remaining members of the delegation). In the case of joint trans- fers, e.g. to the official dinner, the participants were transported by coaches and divided into participant categories (heads of delegations, delegates, liaison offic- ers, etc.). During some meetings, especially ministerial conferences, shuttle buses were also used as transport. The heads of delegations covered by protection from the Government Protection Office moved in protective vehicles of the Bureau.

The car fleet used for the needs of meetings organised in Poland as part of the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union was loaned free of charge to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs by Peugeot Polska sp. z o.o. and Scania Polska SA – official partners of the Polish
Presidency. The fleet consisted of 52 Peugeot 508 Active sedans, 52 Expert Tepees (8-seat passenger cars), 5 Peugeot 4007s with 4x4 drive, 5 Peugeot Partner Tepee Trendies, and 3 Peugeot iOn cars equipped solely with electric motors, and 6 Scania Touring HD tourist coaches. In turn, PKN Orlen SA provided free of charge 150 prepaid fuel cards that allowed cost-free fuelling of the vehicles of the Presidency fleet, with the company acquiring the status of an official partner of the Polish Presidency. Moreover, for the needs of the car fleet of the Presidency, the Ministry of National Defence provided parking spaces in certain cities where Presidency conference venues were situated. Altogether, the vehicles of the Presidency fleet covered 798,985 km (of which 754,707 km were covered by passenger cars and 44,278 km by coaches) and consumed a total of 100,622.44 litres of fuel.

2.4.2.6. Arrangement, decoration, and furnishing of conference venues

In each of the five central conference venues used during the Polish Presidency, arrangement, decoration and internal furnishing necessary to cater for the needs of the meetings held were provided (accounting for the character of the meeting, number of participants, and functions of the individual spaces). Especially, the provision of the following functions was accounted for:

» accreditation centre
» entrances: as far as possible separate ones for the heads of delegations, delegates, public (in the case of major conferences with separate programmes for visitors)
» meeting and relaxation zones
» information point and helpdesk
» hall for plenary sessions
» other conference halls and halls for subject panels (as needed)
» press conference room and/or specially arranged places for the needs of interviews (conference press corners)
» rooms for bilateral meetings
» Presidency Room (room for the Polish Minister and his staff)
» a specially arranged, separate location for the so-called ‘family photo’
» audio rooms for the delegates (optional)
» offices for national delegations
» offices for representatives of EU institutions (depending on needs)
» offices for interpreters
» rooms for liaison officers
» office of the Presidency Secretariat (room for the organisers – representatives of the Department of Coordination of Poland’s Presidency of the EU Council and the ministry hosting the meeting)
» rooms for technical staff, including drivers, security; storage and technical space, etc.
» space for coffee breaks, lunches, and dinners for individual categories of participants, including backrooms for catering providers
» room for the press and journalists
» sanitary premises
» medical centre
» cloakrooms.

All the venues were provided with conference equipment ensuring an appropriate standard of lighting and sound amplification and the possibility of delivering multimedia presentations. Monitors on which the images of the speakers were displayed were set up in the plenary sessions halls. Each of the venues had IT and telecommunications infrastructure provided for the needs of organisers, delegates, and journalists. They had at their disposal worksites furnished with portable computers with office software and Internet access, and the opportunity to use office equipment (landline telephone, printer, fax, photocopier, shredder). Microsoft sp. z o.o. Poland provided free of charge 400 licences for the Windows 7 operating system Ultimate version and 400 licences for the MS Office Professional 2010 software package, and acquired the title of a partner of the Polish Presidency. Contact Center sp. z o.o. – another partner of the Polish Presidency – leased free of charge more than 100 mobile telephones with active SIM cards on the Orange network, and 40 sets composed of portable computer, modem, and an active SIM card that allowed use of mobile Internet access on Orange.

Also assured during the preparations and meetings were the appropriate decoration of the venue, permanent conference services (including technical), and the presence of hostesses. Moreover, the staff of the Diplomatic Protocol of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs provided supervision of the protocol-related aspects of the sessions and the official dinners.

The venues were furnished with systems for simultaneous interpretation, together with personal receivers, microphones, and interpreters’ booths with equipment conforming to international standards for interpretation equipment and the standards required by the Directorate General for Interpretation (DG SCIC) in the European Commission.
2.4. Organisation of meetings

2.4.2.7. Conference services at the meetings

The provision of conference services at the meetings was entrusted to a consortium of external contractors. The project team structure below was developed for the needs of project complementation.

Altogether, the team of people involved in the preparation of the meetings on behalf of the contractor consisted of 124 people.

The contractor coordinated and implemented the following components of the task:

- coordination of the entire project in matters related to the adaptation of the venue and providing conference services in each venue
- providing technical services for the conference, including sound amplification, conference discussion systems, multimedia, and interpretation systems
- furnishing and arrangement of venue premises, especially furnishing with conference furniture, flags, floral decorations, technical conference facilities, including interpreters’ booths, rostrums, journalist stands, tents and pavilions for the needs of the media and accreditation
- placement of promotional materials on the premises of the venues, and also signposting of rooms and access routes to the marked rooms
- temporary structures in the rooms, especially provision and assembly of partitions, providing boxes for radio and TV transmissions, exhibitions; provision and installation of tents to provide additional space besides some conference venues
- assembly, disassembly, technical servicing, storage, and transport to and between conference venues

![Conference services at the meetings](Furnishing of rooms to be used by the Polish Presidency for meetings)

![Project team structure](Source: EasyLog Sp. z o.o.)
• preparation of information points at Warsaw and Poznań airports
• personal services, that is the work of hostesses and ancillary and technical personnel.

The provider of conference services was contractually obliged to collaborate with the parties performing other tasks and partners of the Presidency in the scope of tasks during the preparations for meetings at the given venue and during the meetings. All the activities of the contractor were coordinated in real-time by the Department of Coordination of Poland’s Presidency of EU Council in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (DKP MSZ).

As far as multimedia were concerned, the following work was conducted:

» assembly and disassembly of cables and all devices
» technical services during the meetings
» checking the multimedia presentations received from the sectors
» provision of access to audio and video signals to other parties (HB, journalists, streaming)
» distribution of materials through an internal high-density television circuit.

A conference hall arranged for the needs of Polish Presidency meetings

2.4.2.8. Translation and interpretation services at the meetings

Interpretation services included: simultaneous interpretation during the plenary session in the language regime defined for the given meeting, interpretation during the optional working lunches, interpretation of press conferences, and also the possibility of using consecutive interpretation for Polish ministers during bilateral meetings and official dinners. In the case of certain informal councils, the accompanying programmes also required provision of a consecutive interpreter.

Altogether, interpretation services were provided for the 32 most important meetings held in Poland. Most of them were simultaneously translated from 6 into 6 languages of the EU (Polish, English, French, German, Spanish, and Italian). Two informal Councils (JHA and AGRIFISH) were translated in the interpretation regime from 22 into 6 languages. During the summit of the Eastern Partnership in Warsaw, the plenary sessions were translated from 28 into 13 languages. The listing of the language regimes used during the individual meetings is presented in Annex No. 2 to the report.

As far as written translation is concerned, approximately 10,000 pages of text were translated into French, English, and German. Several incidental articles were also published in Esperanto. All the translations were proofread by native speakers of the target languages. Foreign-language versions of materials, calendars, articles, and current information designed for the Presidency information website www.pl2011.eu accounted for most of the translations. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs prepared language aids, including a glossary of terms related to the Presidency in four languages, and a set of several dozen templates for press releases in four languages. These materials served to maintain the terminological cohesion and precision of the translated texts.

The most important meetings organised during the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union, i.e. the informal councils of ministers as well as the Eastern Partnership Summit and the Equality Summit, were interpreted by interpreters from the European Commission. An external contractor was responsible for the simultaneous interpretations during ministerial conferences, and provided consecutive interpreters for the needs of official dinners, bilateral meetings, and accompanying programmes during all the meetings of the Presidency for which the need for such interpretation was reported. The high-level meeting for the countries of the Southern Partnership and the European Development Days were both interpreted jointly by interpreters from SCIC and an external interpreting company.
2.4. Organisation of meetings

2.4.2.9. Official dinners and catering at conference venues

Organised for the participants of central meetings were official dinners, as a rule outside conference venues, as well as catering on the premises during coffee breaks and lunches. Music was also provided at the official dinners.

The official dinners were organised for the needs of each central meeting. Four of them were of a working character and 27 of an official nature. The majority of official dinners were held outside the conference venues, and their participants were heads of national delegations, together with accompanying persons and members of official delegations. Held after the sessions, they provided an opportunity to present to EU delegates Polish hospitality, places of historical significance, and culinary traditions in an attractive architectural setting. Ensuring appropriate promotion of Poland during the Presidency, the menus of the official dinners as well as of lunches and coffee breaks were nearly entirely focused on traditional Polish cuisine, with an emphasis on regional dishes in each of the Presidency cities.

External venues of the Presidency where official dinners were held included Gdańsk Shipyard Centre, the Polish Maritime Museum, the Polish Baltic Philharmonic, the Artus Court in Gdańsk, Wrocław Town Hall, the National Opera in Wrocław, the Salt Mine in Wieliczka, the Natioal Museum in Poznań, Iglica (Spire) Pavilion No. 11 at Poznań International Fair, and the Copernicus Science Centre.

Provided during the official dinners was an artistic programme, composed mostly of performances by pianists, string ensembles, and regional bands bringing together young and talented artists, representing the given region of the Presidency (e.g. Chopin na Jazzowo na 3 fortepiany / Chopin for 3 Jazz Pianos in Sopot, performance by the Lajkonik Hobby Horse of Cracow, and cabaret groups). Besides the artistic experiences, the official dinners were accompanied by such attractions as a catamaran cruise on the Baltic, a visit to the Salt Mine in Wieliczka, presentation of a film about Solidarity, etc.

During the meetings organised in the central system, catering at conference venues encompassed 57,135 meals, of which 24,950 were coffee breaks, 23,462 lunches, and 10,723 dinners at conference venues.

A partner of the Polish Presidency, Coca-Cola Poland Services sp. z o.o., owner of the Kropka Beskidu brand, donated approximately 105,000 litres of drinks to the most important meetings of the Presidency.

2.4.2.10. Presents for participants in the meetings

Participants in the events taking place in Poland were presented with a range of presents, publications, and information and promotional materials, including:

- 9,555 so-called basic kits
- 1,432 sets for VIP participants
- 4,941 participant kits
- 977 sets for accompanying persons
- 1,281 media packs.

More information about presents and promotional materials of the Polish Presidency can be found in subchapter 2.5.2.

2.4.3. Friends of the Presidency Club

The involvement of the private sector in the operation supporting the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union was not limited to the official business partners of the Polish Presidency. Free support as part of the Friends of the Presidency Club was also declared by Bank Gospodarstwa Krajowego (BGK), DHL Express, EurActive, the Polish Business Roundtable Club, Fryderyk Chopin Airport in Warsaw, LOT Airlines, nk.pl, Onet.pl, Polskie Radio dla Zagranicy, the Public Transport Authority of Warsaw (ZTM), ProxyAd, City Channel, Multikino, Pekaes, and the Aeris Futuro Foundation. Every member of the Club that signed a contract regarding free collaboration with the Plenipotentiary acting on behalf
of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs supported the Presidency as part of their statutory activity, e.g. by publishing information about the activities of the Presidency (Polskie Radio dla Zagranicy, Kaleidoscope on-board magazine of LOT Airlines, EurActive, Onet.pl, nk.pl), reinforcing the visibility of the Presidency in the public space (Fryderyk Chopin Airport, ZTM, BGK), providing transport services of promotional materials and elements of the venue furnishing (DHL, Pekaes), and coordinating the recycling of materials left from the Presidency meetings (Aeris Futuro Foundation).

Information about business partners and members of the Friends of the Presidency Club was made visible on a special tab on the www.pl2011.eu portal. At the same time, the collaborating businesses provided information on their support for the Presidency in their own corporate communication.

2.4.4. Green Presidency

The Polish Presidency of the EU Council tried to limit the negative environmental impact by efficient use of resources, including energy, water, and paper through logistics, production of presents and gadgets, selection of business partners and subcontractors, education, and also by accounting for pro-ecological criteria in the process of public procurement. Efforts were made to conduct the Presidency events in the so-called Green Standard and make use of the potential of local communities while, at the same time being economically viable. The following actions were undertaken for ‘greening’ of the Presidency:

**Green procurement and management**

Coordination of the ‘green’ aspects of the Presidency was in the hands of the Ministry of the Environment, which, besides running working groups related to the environmental aspects of the work of the European Union, prepared special campaigns addressed to the Polish administration. Their objective was to encourage people responsible for the Presidency to organise events and run procurement procedures in line with the principles of sustainable growth. In this way, work on the preparation of the Presidency became an opportunity to introduce the subject of green public procurement as part of training for the Presidency Corps.

The Ministry of the Environment prepared an electronic guidebook on ‘green’ meetings, and during the training for the members of the Presidency Corps a guidebook by the Aeris Futuro Foundation entitled ‘Organizacja wydarzeń w zielonym standardzie’ [Organising events in accordance with the Green Standard] was distributed.\(^{11}\)

**Partnerships**

The Presidency collaborated with non-governmental organisations that specialise in the building of pro-environmental civic attitudes. Support was offered through grant competitions organised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of the Environment in 2010 and 2011, of which a number concerned environmental questions. Additionally, the Presidency consciously implemented the project of the Green Presidency in symbiosis with non-governmental organisations, whose number included the Aeris Futuro Foundation, which permitted the number of recipients of information about the campaign supporting environmental and education in the area to be expanded.\(^{12}\)

**Travel and transport**

The Presidency promoted group transport (minibuses, coaches) and public transport, unless they conflicted with the principles of security. In addition, one solar-powered coach and three electric passenger cars were in use. Thanks to the judicious management of the fleet, the Presidency managed to save nearly 50% of the funds entrusted by PKN Orlen, a partner of the Presidency, in fuel vouchers. This allowed a saving of 90,500 kg of CO\(_2\); the equivalent of what 12,000 trees consume on average during one year.

**Conference and hotel venues**

Most of the venues used were situated in city centres, newly built or modernised, adjusted to the needs of the disabled.

As part of the decoration of the venues, carpeting and furniture sets from natural, non-flammable fibres were purchased and transported to the next venues. The rooms were decorated with potted plants (boxwood and coniferous tree seedlings), which were also transported from location to location in Poland, and returned to the nursery garden after the end of the Presidency. Recycling was managed by deploying containers for paper, glass, plastic, and aluminium at conference venues.

**Catering**

In the tenders for catering companies, the Presidency showed a preference for Polish and regional cuisine and local suppliers. Mass packaging for foodstuffs and furnishing was used, and fresh fruit and vegetables were served with each meal. Attempts were made to plan purchases and meal sizes based on the data from the accreditation system in order to avoid wasting food. Besides the pro-environmental aspect, serving dishes from local produce

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\(^{11}\) http://zielonewydarzenia.pl/sites/default/files/imagecache/Organizacja_wydarzen_w_zielonym_standardzie.pdf

\(^{12}\) http://pl2011.eu/content/zielona-prezydencja-0
2.4. Organisation of meetings

also allowed the promotion of healthy food from organic farms. Moreover, the Presidency promoted Polish cuisine using traditional Polish produce in a special publication entitled *Cuisine PL* and published in English, French, Russian, and Polish.

Communication, promotion, and education

A special system for exchanging documents and news (extranet) was developed for the internal communication of the Presidency Corps. For the external communication, the website and the electronic accreditation system were the main channels used. E-mail correspondence and telephone conversations were the chief means of communication. Additionally, regular teleconferences – especially in the contacts with the Permanent Representation of the Republic of Poland at the European Union in Brussels – were organised.

As far as possible, exhibition equipment and materials designed for repeated use and easy to transport (stands, roll ups) were used. As far as writing gadgets were concerned, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs produced recyclable pencils only. The gadgets and presents were made by Polish artists and craftspeople. Towards the end of the Presidency, the promotional publications ‘About Polska’ and ‘Cuisine PL’ were published as tablet applications, which increased their reach without the need to commission more printing.

An important element of the Green Events standard is the understanding of the idea of Green Events, and the objectives of using pro-environmental solutions at the stage of organisation of meetings. To achieve that, the Ministry of the Environment trained approximately 120 officers responsible for the preparation of the Polish Presidency in the subject of green public procurement (GPP).

Two conferences meeting the Green Standard were held: in Gdańsk, conducted by the Responsible Business Forum and the Ministry of Economy in collaboration with the Aeris Futuro Foundation, and the conference in Ojców, which – besides the subject range concerning the environmental aspects of the Presidency – also implemented sustainable solutions.

Waste

Information and promotional materials that could not be used any more after the Presidency were entrusted to environmentally friendly waste management. To achieve this, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs signed an agreement with the Cracow-based Aeris Futuro Foundation, which became a member of the Friends of the Presidency Club. The foundation managed the coordination of collecting waste left from the meetings of the Presidency and its recycling. The collection of waste was conducted by

the Warsaw-based Disabled for the Environment EKON Association, nominated by the Foundation. Besides the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the project was joined by the Ministry of Health, Ministry of the Environment, and Ministry of National Education. Planned for the spring of 2012 is the symbolic planting of trees in a number corresponding to the value of the waste subjected to recycling.

The collection project gathered 3800 kg of materials, of which 3330 kg will be reused and will not find its way to waste landfill. This includes:

- 2310 kg of waste paper and cardboard, which ended up at a paper mill
- 300 kg of scrap metal (including aluminium), sent to smelting plants
- 140 kg of banners, after being cut into thin strips, baled and earmarked for alternative fuel.

According to a study by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), reuse of natural resources in the process of recycling, that is making other materials from them, will relieve us of the need to mine and process more raw materials, which allows major energy saving, and in this case lack of emission of 8400 kg of greenhouse gases to the air, which is tantamount to the average annual consumption of 1120 trees.

Miscellaneous

The Presidency paid attention to the aesthetic qualities of the cityscape. An example is the Floral and Green Warsaw – Floral Presidency competition, organised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the support for the Dzień Zielonej Prezydencji / Day of the Green Presidency festival by the Ministry of the Environment, where presents included 300 pansies in the colours of EU and Poland. In an effort to ensure natural protection after the completion of Presidency meetings in Sopot, the beach in the city where the tent with the Press Centre operated was returned to its original condition.

Conclusion

The period of the Presidency was used for the promotion of the idea of greening the Polish administration. Meetings of an international character, prepared along the lines of principles of organisation of green events, were a positive sign of Poland being a country that cares for the state of the environment. The Presidency managed to implement numerous new ‘green’ standards and promote a comprehensive overview of the organisation


14 www.tpw.org.pl/?Warszawa_w_kwiatach_i_zieleni:XXVIII_Konkurs_ Warszawa_w_kwiatach_i_zieleni_2011_%26%238211%3B_%22Prezydencja_w_kwiatach%22:Regulamin_i_karty_zg%23osze%F1s
of meetings, also in matters concerning respecting the principles of environmental protection. The experience gained will be shared further, as part of training for the staff of the central administration and local and regional authorities (including the Zielone Wydarzenia – kampania informacyjno-promocyjna / Green Events – information and promotional campaign of the Aeris Futuro Foundation in 2012 and 2013), and also as part of sharing know-how with EU Member States getting ready to hold presidencies in the EU Council in future.

2.4.5. Meetings in Brussels

Held in Brussels in connection with the Polish Presidency were both the regular sessions of the EU Council and of its preparatory organs and a number of meetings aimed at the promotion of Poland as well as conferences and seminars on priority thematic areas of the Polish Presidency.

During the 99 working days, 1439 sessions of groups and 53 sessions of sector councils were held in Brussels and Luxembourg. To cater for their needs, 1156 orders for active translation/interpretation were made and 390 passive translation jobs were ordered.

The Meeting Planning Coordinator (MPC) team took care of the visual arrangement of the meetings and decoration and catering at the General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union and at the base of the Permanent Representation of the Republic of Poland to the EU (more in subchapter 1.3.4.1). Altogether, over 410 working lunches were organised (at the headquarters of the Permanent Representation of the Republic of Poland to the EU, the General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union, and other institutions and restaurants). Elements of the Polish Presidency decorations, namely artistic furniture, banners, and roll-ups, were presented at the main headquarters of the General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union – the Atrium, by the main VIP entrance, in the rooms of the Polish Presidency on the 50th floor, in the rooms of the delegations, in the press office, and in the building of the Permanent Representation of the Republic of Poland to the EU. Thanks to the collaboration with the Polish Tourist Information Centre (POIT) in Brussels, East Poland House, and the Malopolska Region Office in Brussels, exhibitions of posters and photographs from various Polish regions were presented in the corridors of the General Secretariat of the EU Council building in Brussels and Luxembourg.

During the Presidency of the EU Council, more than 9000 official presents of the Polish Presidency were distributed to over 240 formations of working groups, sector councils, and high-ranking officers of the EU Council, the European Commission, the European Parliament, and other institutions.

The MPC team – in collaboration with governmental and local and regional administration – planned and implemented promotional projects at the General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union and in other institutions of the EU. One of the key elements was a series of events devoted to Marie Skłodowska-Curie. Besides the official, abundant cultural programme of the Polish Presidency, a range of additional promotional projects were carried out in the EU institutions. One of them was the promotion of Polish cuisine and Polish products, following the slogan ‘Polska smakuje’ / ‘Poland tastes great’, which presented high-quality food. In 14 restaurants in the General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union and European Commission, a Polish menu prepared by Polish chefs – Adam Chrząstowski (an experienced chef representing the catering trade) and Tomasz Duda (the cook to the Permanent Representation of the Republic of Poland to the EU) – was served. Selected items from the Polish menu were served at official lunches at the sector councils in Brussels and Luxembourg. In collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, three campaigns aimed at the presentation of regional products awarded European Protected Geographical Status certificates were planned and carried out in the European Parliament and the General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union; the regional products were Kashubian garden strawberries (kaszébskô maléna), Łącko apples, and rogale świetomarcińskie (St Martin croissants).

Initiated for the first time in the history of Member States presiding over the EU Council by the Polish Presidency was its active participation at the EU Council staff party (with the participation of over 2000 officers), while the Polish Christmas trees from State Forests National Forest Holding decorated the buildings of the EU Council and the European Parliament before and during Christmas time.

In 2011, the operations of the Permanent Representation of the Republic of Poland to the EU in Brussels concerning public diplomacy were built around the central event of the year, which was the Polish Presidency of the EU Council and its priorities. The actions embarked on aimed at the reinforcement of the image of Poland in the capacity of an active and constructive Member State, devoted to European integration, obtaining understanding and support for the Polish point of view, and garnering the favours of the decision-making circles in the EU and of opinion-forming and expert circles in Brussels. A range of events described in the table below were organised.
### Table 11. Events organised by the Permanent Representation of the Republic of Poland to the EU as part of public diplomacy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event name</th>
<th>Event description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Conference in the Brussels Forum series</td>
<td>The conference is a flagship of the Brussels-based German Marshall Fund, whose participants include presidents and heads of government, ministers, and high-ranking central officials, heads of think tanks, and other recognised intellectuals and analysts. The main guest was Minister Radosław Sikorski</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The expert seminar ‘The EU &amp; the East: migration and how to go forward’</td>
<td>A seminar devoted to migration and mobility of Eastern Partnership countries in the EU, held at the headquarters of the European Policy Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The expert seminar ‘EU Democracy Support: Instruments and Effectiveness’</td>
<td>A seminar concerning the effectiveness of developmental aid and democratisation in the EU, with the participation of Minister Krzysztof Stanowski, co-organised by the European Partnership for Democracy (EPD)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The expert seminar ‘Europe and its Neighbourhood: Towards a Renewed Partnership for Democracy’</td>
<td>A seminar on the role of the EU and the Community of Democracies in the policy of democratisation towards the Southern and Eastern Neighbourhood of Europe in the context of the events of the Arab Spring. The event was held in collaboration with the European Partnership for Democracy (EPD) and Community of Democracies Executive Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The conference ‘Think Global Act European’</td>
<td>A conference accompanying the presentation of the ‘Think Global Act European’ report, which is the third round of collaboration between European think tanks (this time the project attracted the largest number of think tanks so far: 16), which – following their own analysis of EU policies – formulate recommendations for every successive Presidency trio, this time PL-DK-CY, and present them in a joint report. Participating in the writing of the report on behalf of the Polish expert circles was demosEUROPA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The ‘State of the Union’ conference of the European Policy Centre (EPC)</td>
<td>An annual conference with the participation of Undersecretary of State Adam Jasser (KPRM)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The conference ‘Eastern Partnership on the eve of the Warsaw summit – time to deliver’</td>
<td>A conference with the participation of Minister Radosław Sikorski, devoted to the Eastern Partnership, and organised by the European Policy Centre (EPC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The expert seminar ‘Shale Gas: Environmental Perspective’</td>
<td>A seminar on the influence of shale gas on the environment, especially the GHG emissions related to the production of natural gas from shale deposits, using the case study of Marcellus Shale in the US</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The seminar ‘The Future of Europe – the Polish perspective’</td>
<td>A seminar with the participation of Minister Beata Stelmach, presented by THINKTANK Magazine, devoted to the promotion of new Polish enterprise, presenting the outlook of Polish entrepreneurs on the challenges of European competitiveness, and experiences from the Polish transformation and change management in the face of the developmental challenges of Europe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friends of Europe conference on ‘The State of Europe: Re-thinking the European’</td>
<td>An annual conference devoted to the current issues and state of Europe, opportunities and challenges that the EU is facing, and ideas for the future of Europe. With the Prime Minister of the Republic of Poland, Donald Tusk being absent, Minister Jacek Rostowski participated in the event</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Security and Defence Agenda conference ‘Security and Defence Day: Re-thinking Europe’s security priorities’</td>
<td>An annual conference devoted to the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP). With Minister Radosław Sikorski being absent, Minister Jan Borkowski participated in the debate</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Among the best-appraised projects organised by the Permanent Representation of the Republic of Poland to the EU, we can cite numerous actions in areas of strategic significance for Poland, for example those concerning the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP), the European Neighbourhood Policy, and especially the Eastern Partnership; the EU policy of supporting democratisation and human rights, especially devoted to the European Fund for Democracy; energy policy, especially concerning shale gas; economic policy and anti-crisis activities, cohesion policy, and also areas that are less obvious for the involvement of Poland, e.g. the relations of Poland and Europe with Asia.

Organisation of initiatives and projects by the Permanent Representation or with its participation helped to reinforce the image of Poland as a proactive and constructive member of the EU – leading initiatives and making propositions – in the spirit of involvement, dialogue, and openness, keen to participate in the shaping of the European project and its agenda and in the decision-making process in the EU among the participants of the EU decision-making process and in expert circles, especially in Brussels.

The tasks conducted by the Permanent Representation in the field of cultural diplomacy concerned the general promotion of Poland during the Presidency of the Council of the European Union and the anniversary celebrations of Marie Skłodowska-Curie and Czesław Miłosz. Altogether, 17 promotional projects took place:

1) a concert by the pianist Marek Tomaszewski and the Siergiej Wowkotrub jazz trio, with an accompanying exhibition organised by the Mariusz Kazana Foundation commemorating the opening of the new home of the Permanent Representation of the Republic of Poland to the EU at 139 Rue Stevin.
2) a concert commemorating the beatification of Pope John Paul II, organised in collaboration with the Office of the Apostolic Nuncio in Brussels
3) a presentation of an exhibition entitled Rysunki satyryczne / Satirical Drawings by Paweł Kuczyński, from the collection of the Museum of Caricature in Warsaw (the new headquarters of the Permanent Representation of the Republic of Poland to the EU, European Economic and Social Committee, and the European Commission)
4) a presentation of a biographical exhibition presenting the life and achievements of Marie Skłodowska-Curie, prepared by the Maria Skłodowska-Curie Museum in Warsaw (Council of the European Union, the European Court of Auditors in Luxembourg, PolSca Polish Science Contact Agency of the Polish Academy of Sciences (PAN), Hasselt University, Belgium, Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Brussels, College of Europe in Bruges, Commune de Saint-Gilles in Brussels, European Economic and Social Committee, the municipality of Silly in Belgium, the Metropole Hotel (venue of the 25 Solvay conference) in Brussels, Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Luxembourg, European Gender Summit in Brussels, Catholic University in Leuven (Belgium), the International Year of Chemistry in Brussels, Polish Days in Breydel in Belgium, KU Leuven in Belgium, Université libre in Brussels, and the Permanent Representation of the Republic of Poland to the EU in Brussels)
5) the Polish Evening at the European Economic and Social Committee
6) the inauguration of the Polish Presidency with ‘King Roger’, an opera by Karol Szymanowski at the La Monnaie Theatre
7) Digest of Polish Film at the European Parliament, co-organised with the Constituency Office of Boguslaw Sonik, MEP
8) an exhibition devoted to Maria Skłodowska-Curie, exhibition by the Polish Centre of Tourist Information, exhibition of the National Agency of the ‘Youth in Action’ Programme under the patronage of the Minister of National Education entitled Volunteering Changes the World (building of the Council of the European Union in Luxembourg)
9) a ‘Jeudi Veggie’ dinner, promoting Polish vegetarian cuisine, in collaboration with the Planète Vie Association
10) the publication of ‘Od horyzontu do przewodnictwa’ (‘From the Horizon to the Presidency’) by Dominika Cosić, explaining the recent history of Poland in the EU from the negotiation period to the Presidency of the Council of the European Union
11) Polish Gala on the occasion of the Polish Presidency, with the participation of the Polish composer Jan A.P. Kaczmarek, co-organised with the Femmes d’Europe Association
12) a conference entitled ‘The Native Realm, or Searching for the Europe of Czesław Milosz’ co-organised with the Permanent Representation of Lithuania to the EU and the Constituency Office of Leonidas Donskis MEP at the European Parliament
13) a seminar on voluntary service at the European Parliament, co-organised by the Constituency Office of Jan Kozłowski MEP
14) a concert by the Polish choir Domino Cantes in the Dominican Church in Brussels
15) a theatre production of ‘Maria Skłodowska-Curie: The Book of Genesis / Naked to the Bone’, co-organised with the ‘PolSca’ Polish Science Contact Agency of the Polish Academy of Sciences and BASF at the Hotel Metropole in Brussels, the venue of the 25 Solvay conference
16) a Christmas carol concert by the Polish Spirituals Singers Band for the closing of the Polish Presidency of the EU Council
17) a presentation of Polish artistic prints from the International Print Triennial in Cracow at the Permanent Representation of the Republic of Poland to the EU.

Moreover, the representation supported numerous projects promoting Poland and Polish culture in the institutions of the European Union and in the territory of Belgium. Stands promoting Poland and distribution of promotional materials, including CDs, books, and other gadgets prepared especially for that purpose were organised, mostly on the premises of EU institutions and in the territory of the country where a representation operates. The recipients of the promotional materials were mostly officers employed in EU institutions.

Thanks to conditions conducive for the organisation of meetings in the rooms of the new building of the Permanent Representation of the Republic of Poland to the EU, it was possible to conduct many conferences and seminars planned for the duration of the Presidency at the headquarters of the Representation. The events organised included the following:

1) An informal seminar for the Political and Security Committee Ambassadors. Its objective was to discuss one of the priorities of the Polish Presidency concerning the external aspects of energy security of the European Union.
2) A conference of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs concerning the control of exports of arms, with
the participation of representatives of the Member States, European External Action Service (EEAS), and non-governmental organisations to discuss questions including those related to the EU position concerning the Arms Trade Treaty.

3) Official dinner of the Enlargement Forum concerning the enlargement of the EU, with the participation of the ministers of foreign affairs of the EU, the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Catherine Ashton, and the Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Štefan Füle. The goal behind the dinner was to provide momentum to the enlargement policy.

4) A seminar entitled ‘The New European Neighbourhood Policy: In Search of a Successful Transition Model’ organised together with the Polish Institute of International Affairs (PISM). The seminar was devoted to the first assessment of the review of the European Neighbourhood Policy in its southern and eastern dimension, and was addressed to experts from representations of Member States in Brussels, the staff of the European Commission and the EEAS, academics, representatives of think tanks, and experts from the region.

5) A seminar entitled ‘The development of human capital in the context of the EU neighbourhood policy’, co-organised by the Ministry of National Education and the European Training Foundation (ETF), with the participation of representatives of the European Parliament, DG Education and Culture, the General Secretariat of the Council, countries covered by the Eastern Partnership programme, and members of the Committee on Culture and Education (CULT). The discussion concerned the options of development for human capital by activities in the field of education, especially in higher education in the states of the Eastern Partnership, in collaboration with the EU. The participants were made aware of the achievements of the ETF and European Commission in the field.

6) A conference at the European Commission building entitled ‘Protecting civil aviation against terrorism. The aviation industry, transport companies, airlines, and organisations dealing with questions of civil aviation’. The goal behind the conference was to exchange views concerning the level of terrorist threat for civil aviation, the development of techniques of aviation protection to date, and future opportunities for improving them.

7) A high-level conference entitled ‘The State of Europe’ together with the official President’s Dinner, organised by the Friends of Europe, European think tank in collaboration with the Polish Presidency. Among the speakers participating in the conference were the leading representatives of EU institutions (EC, EP, and others), Member States (including Poland), representatives of so-called stakeholders, and representatives of leading European media present in Brussels (including the Financial Times and Euronews). The discussion was held in the following four panels: The EU’S Three Ages: Rise, Decline and Fall?; Project Phoenix: Setting Out a Real Political Agenda for Europe; Retaining Europe’s ‘Values’ Leadership and Winning back Citizens; and Europe’s New Neighbourhood. During the official dinner after the closing of the conference, the Polish Presidency was represented by the Minister of Finance, Jacek Rostowski.

8) Political conference on the multiannual financial framework and concerning the future of the EU budget. The conference, opened by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Poland, Donald Tusk, the President of the European Parliament Jerzy Buzek, the President of the European Commission José Manuel Barroso and organised in collaboration with the European Commission and the European Parliament, brought together the Polish members of the Parliament, ministers, and other interested parties, and representatives of the EU institutions.

Other events organised with the participation of the Permanent Representation of the Republic of Poland to the EU in Brussels:

1) exhibitions at the General Secretariat of the EU Council and the European Commission, presenting the Polish regions in collaboration with the POIT and a representation of East Poland House, and other regional representations

2) bicycle trips, quizzes about Poland at the European school and schools of Belgium

3) the Presidency picnic

4) marathon with the participation of Polish officers (the Polan group ran in T-shirts bearing the logo of the Polish Presidency)

5) Polish Days at Aspria Royal la Rasante sport clubs.

2.4.6. Other meetings abroad

Some meetings and events of the Polish Presidency took place abroad; these included meetings and events whose content was the responsibility of ministries, those that resulted from Poland being the diplomatic representation of the European Union (i.e. the so-called local Presidency),
and also events and projects promoting Poland and the Polish Presidency abroad. Involved in the organisation of the meetings and events described above were Polish diplomatic missions from all over the world: embassies, permanent representations, consulates, and Polish institutes, and the events were conducted as part of a number of task areas.

At the request of the ministries, Polish diplomatic missions provided organisational and logistic support necessary in the organisation of foreign meetings related to the Presidency by individual ministries. Their number included various theme-based seminars and conferences, ministerial forums, sessions of working groups, councils, expert consultations, workshops, and also numerous accompanying events and receptions organised to accompany the informal consultations on behalf of the Presidency, meetings related to providing services for the preparatory organs of the EU Council, and other occasional meetings/receptions related to the Presidency. In respect to the task described above, the preparations for the organisation of the meetings were carried out by Polish foreign diplomatic missions throughout 2011, while the practical execution of the events took place in the second half of 2011, i.e. during the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union. The contribution of the missions to the scope described above included primarily organisational and logistic support of the ministries. In many cases the missions conducted negotiations with local suppliers, contractors, and subcontractors, but they also worked with local authorities, and moreover were responsible for the booking of conference premises, accommodation and transport and the provision of the necessary technical equipment and catering for the meetings. It frequently turned out that conducting negotiations, talks, and consultations with business partners required the local language, for which reason the assistance of the staff of Polish diplomatic missions was necessary. Moreover, the staff of the missions provided practical guidelines concerning local legal regulations, standards, laws, and norms observed in their respective countries.

One of the most important meetings abroad organised during the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union was the 17th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP17), whose organisation was a responsibility of the Ministry of Environment. The conference was held in Durban (Republic of South Africa) from 28 November to 9 December 2011, and was preceded by expert meetings in Cape Town (the so-called pre-COP-17). The preparation of this event was a special challenge, both in expert terms and in organisational and logistic matters: plenty of difficulties were caused by the location of the meeting in the Republic of South Africa and the low flexibility and highly restrictive conditions of collaboration imposed by the South African local authorities.

Moreover, during the entire second half of 2011, numerous expert meetings – whose organisation was the duty of ministries (including, but not solely, those of the environment, foreign affairs, interior affairs and administration, justice, finance, and health) – and accompanying events were organised abroad.

Another significant theme, which obliged the missions to organise meetings abroad, was the role of representing the European Union awarded to selected missions, i.e. the so-called local presidency. To fulfil this function, the Polish diplomatic missions in the countries mentioned in the EEAS document entitled ‘EU Diplomatic Representation in Third Countries – Second Half of 2011’ were obliged to carry out the tasks of the EU Delegation that has no seat in the given country or no head at the rank of ambassador. From July to December 2011, Poland played the role of local presidency in the Republic of Belarus, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, the Republic of Cuba, the United Arab Emirates, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the State of Kuwait, New Zealand, the Republic of Uzbekistan, the State of Qatar, the Holy See, and Turkmenistan. As a result, the Polish missions to the countries listed above were responsible among other things for providing services to working groups, also including EU Heads of Mission (HoMs), and political, economic, consular and visa, and cultural groups, as well as for the organisation of other meetings and events related to the Presidency. It must be emphasised that due to the lack of diplomatic representation of Hungary in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, the Islamic Republic of Iraq, New Zealand, the Republic of Uzbekistan, and Turkmenistan, on the power of the decision of the EU Council Poland was already performing the role of local presidency in these countries during the Hungarian Presidency (January–June 2011).

A significant area of activity of Polish foreign missions concerning the organisation of meetings was initiatives in the field of public and cultural diplomacy aiming at the promotion of Poland and the Polish Presidency abroad, and reinforcement of the political message of the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union. The area enjoyed especially great interest among the diplomatic missions. The missions were exceptionally devoted to the implementation of such projects, and were eager to prove their own initiative and at the same time a high level of independence and innovation. The completed projects included seminars, conferences and debates, competitions for schools, information supplements for magazines and newspapers, concerts, film showings, meetings with...
artists, and exhibitions held in many European countries, and also outside Europe – in the United States, Canada, Australia, Hong Kong, China, Qatar, South Korea, Vietnam, Malaysia, Singapore, Armenia, Moldova, Lebanon, Ethiopia, Kenya, South Africa, Morocco, Pakistan, Iran, Iraq, Egypt, India, Peru, and Brazil. The initiatives completed by the missions were aligned with the priorities of the Polish Presidency, both in their function of promoting the political programme and implementation of the cultural programme, and in what was seen broadly as the promotion of Poland.


The Polish Presidency also focused on supporting transformation processes in the states of North Africa and in other countries of the EU Southern Neighbourhood. The experiences from the period of transformation were shared among others in Tunisia by leading Polish experts in economics, judiciary, and constitutional law, as well as politicians. Moreover, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs began collaboration with the largest media network in Africa and the Middle East – Al Jazeera. This unprecedented project had the aim of reaching the largest population of the states of that region with the ideas that accompanied the Polish transformation.

A listing of selected foreign meetings conducted by Polish diplomatic missions and related to the Presidency of the Council of the European Union held by Poland in the second half of 2011 is included as Annex No. 3 to this report.
2.5. Promotion, information, culture

2.5.1. Visual identification

2.5.1.1. Visual identification system

To support the content-related premises of the Polish Presidency of the EU Council, it was necessary to build a coherent concept for visualising the Presidency’s message. Visual communication plays an increasing role in the contemporary world, which is why it was strongly emphasised in the context of promotion of the Presidency. The visual identification was designed and constructed so as to best meet the communication guidelines of the Presidency.

Coherent visual communication provided an individual distinguishing feature of the Presidency. The concept of visual identification of the Presidency was developed and implemented in the following areas: the logo — the most important visual symbol of the Polish Presidency, gadgets and presents, gifts, materials for visual identification including banners and roll-ups, publications, and the design and arrangement of selected conference venues (in Poland and in Brussels) with the use of Polish industrial design.

In order to ensure a coherent visual concept, ‘Podręcznik dot. komunikacji wizualnej prezydencji’ [Guidebook on the visual communication of the Presidency] was prepared for the administration, competition juries, and for all the subcontractors and parties dealing with visual projects. The scope of the guidebook included guidelines concerning the selection of projects, gadgets, presents, and conference materials promoting the Polish Presidency, as well as the furniture and furnishings of the main buildings of the Presidency. The guidebook was helpful in the planning of purchases and arrangement and decoration of the venues of the meetings. Even though it had no binding power, it had a positive influence on the construction of a coherent image for the Polish Presidency, reflecting its modern character, transparency and ingenuity — the features we would like to be associated with the Polish Presidency of the EU Council. The guidebook prepared to cater for the needs of the Presidency was the first holistic listing of guidelines on visual communication in public administration.

2.5.1.2. The logo of the Polish Presidency

One of the most important elements for building visual identification was to design a unique logo. Properly designed, the visual symbol was intended to render the vision and the basic premises of the Presidency suitably. At the same time, the positive associations with the symbol were to build a favourable image of the Presidency and Poland all over the world.

On 21 October 2009, the Plenipotentiary announced a competition for the logo of the Presidency. It was a closed competition. Participation was invited from both recognised visual artists and the young generation of designers of visual communication and brand development. Consulting in matters related to the organisation of the competition and its course was provided by the Institute of Industrial Design. The jury was composed of experts in various fields: graphic designers, specialists in visual communication, and building and marketing of brands, practitioners in communication strategy, and representatives of the state administration. After the fourth and last stage of the competition, by the decision of the Plenipotentiary of the Government of 22 July 2010, the closed competition for the draft logo as an element of visualisation of the communication strategy of the Polish Presidency of the EU in 2011 was concluded without the selection of a winning design.

Jerzy Janiszewski, a recognised Polish graphic artist, the designer of the Solidarity logo, was invited to collaborate. In November 2010, the artist delivered the final version of the visual identification book of the logo.

Experience from the last few years has demonstrated the practice that Member States have disclosed the logo only at short notice before taking up the Presidency of the Council of the European Union. The logo of the Polish Presidency remained secret for a long time and was known only to a limited number of people. Detailed guidelines for passing the logo to ministries, missions, and contractors were drafted. Officially, the logo was presented on 14 May 2011 at a press conference by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Poland, Donald Tusk. Dynamism, positive energy, and solidarity were the main messages carried by the logo of the Polish Presidency.

The logo was rated very highly by the public in Poland and abroad. Studies proved the logo was the most recognisable symbol of the Presidency and acted as a flagship for it, and therefore it played that role. It showed Poland as a modern, creative state strongly devoted to the idea of European integration.
2.5. Promotion, information, culture

After the completion of the Polish Presidency, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs presented an initiative to use the symbol of the Polish Presidency as the logo of the Polish Foundation for International Co-operation and Development ‘Fundacja Wiedzieć Jak’ (Foundation for International Solidarity) based in Warsaw. The ceremony to present the logo of the Polish Presidency to the Foundation for International Solidarity took place on 20 January 2012 in the presence of the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

2.5.1.3. Promotional materials and conference accessories

Produced for the needs of the Polish Presidency were promotional materials used to exhibit the logo at meeting venues. They were the visual element of the venue furnishings and included conference materials and accessories as well as information publications presented to the guests during the meetings. The number and type of materials were agreed based on the data from the previous presidencies, also after accounting for the anticipated number of guests at the individual meetings of the Polish Presidency. Besides the basic tasks related to their functionality (e.g. the background to the family photo) at the sites, these materials were primarily used to build the visual message of the Polish Presidency by the emphasis on the logo, titles of meetings and conferences, which in turn emphasised the character of meetings at the venues, as well – e.g. in the case of backdrops to conferences – as being used for TV broadcasts. The basic guidelines for the production of all materials were clarity, functionality, and visual coherence. Every venue was provided with the logo of the Presidency, and its colour range conformed to the Pantone range of the logo.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs decided to approach this area of visual identification comprehensively, and cover not only the centrally organised meetings in Poland and the first working groups in Brussels but also the meetings of the Presidency organised by the ministries at expert level. Such a strategy required major involvement in managing information flow and logistics of distribution of the materials, yet it guaranteed that coherent visual identification could be maintained on a greater scale, and assured the high quality of the products and their alignment with communication guidelines that provided the grounds for the promotional strategy of the Polish Presidency.

The conference materials commissioned for the needs of the Presidency covered useful everyday items, including notepads, pencils, mints, self-adhesive stickers, bags, and lanyards. An important source of information for the guests of the meetings were the standard minor publications presented at all central meetings during each presidency, including the guide to the meeting, its agenda, and a ‘Who’s Who’ brochure, individually prepared for every central meeting.

After the conclusion of the Polish Presidency, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs made sure that the unused materials were managed rationally. Those that could still be used were transferred free of charge to community partners and offered to charity. The others will continue to be used in the operations of the ministry and foreign missions, or were managed in accordance with the ‘green standards’.

2.5.2. Presents and gifts of the Presidency

It is a tradition of each presidency to present guests visiting the host country with gifts. It is an ideal moment for the promotion of the country and an opportunity to draw attention to these aspects of culture and/or the economy that are desirable from the point of view of the strategy of promoting the country. For that reason, the selection of the gifts and presents of the Presidency that were given to the participants of selected (mostly central) meetings of the Polish Presidency provided a significant element of the preparations. Such objects were intended to promote Polish design, art and culture, and to help the creation and establishment of a positive image of the Presidency and Poland.

The guidelines and suggestions concerning the presents were included in the ‘Guidebook concerning visual communication of the Presidency’. As the Polish design market is very well developed and plenty of highly recognised useful objects are available, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs decided to purchase them through public procurement from the list of already existing objects.

Following the procurement procedures that lasted from mid-2010 to mid-2011, the following objects were selected:
- silver cufflinks with banded (stripped) flint
- wooden hand-painted spinning tops
- leather briefcase for documents
- Mleko & Mlód (Milk and Honey) set
- Presidency neck ties and scarves.

**Wooden, hand-painted spinning tops**
Designed by: Monika Wilczyńska. Smaga Projektanci

The set of four hand-painted wooden spinning tops is a toy inspired by Polish folk costumes, which evokes pleasant memories of childhood and enjoys unwavering popularity. The main inspiration for the project was provided by women in traditional Polish folk costumes whirling in a dance. Hence the shape of the spinning top:
the revolving toy depicts a dancer in motion, portraying the richness of colours of Polish traditional regional costume. Manufactured traditionally from painted wood, they are operated by hand.

The official neckwear of the Presidency

Owing to the high importance of neckwear in the perception and building of the image of the Presidency, special attention was paid to the way it was made from the highest-quality materials. Following this strategy, the design and later production of neck ties and scarves was entrusted to professional suppliers. The ties and scarves were designed by Zaremba, a Polish tailoring designer with long traditions. The gifts were manufactured by producers chosen in a succession of three procurement procedures conducted in June and August 2011. The highest-class silk was used to make 25,000 ties and 9000 scarves in the spirit of modern design.

Milk and Honey

*Designed by: Beza projekt*

The inspiration for the Milk and Honey product was the traditional phrase describing Poland as a ‘land flowing with milk and honey’. The design focuses on the potential of natural resources and the heritage of Poland. The ancient traditions of forest honey harvesting date back to the Poland of the 14th century. Polish honeys are natural and unprocessed. The traditional product is served in a highly modern manner, in packaging that is minimalist in its form. The set includes a milk glass, a spoon, and a jar of honey with information about its contents, the variety of honey, etc. The glass features a special thermal print (logo), which signals the right temperature of milk (40°C/104°F) for honey not to lose its nutritional properties.

The neck ties and scarf of the Polish Presidency

The concept of visual communication of the Polish Presidency was based on providing high-quality materials: functional and modern, as far as possible produced by recycling or recyclable. One of the main guidelines was to present designs created by Polish designers and manufactured by Polish producers. A further significant element of the concept was the use of a variety of local materials. The presents of the Polish Presidency were supposed to show that there are products in Poland that have been made according to the global design trends that at the same time are innovative and produced using state-of-the-art technologies. The presents were given in packaging that combined simplicity and minimalism with functionality. Another goal was to show that Poland is a modern country with vast creative potential and intellectual capital, while our designers are world-class.

Recipients of the presents and gifts were Heads of State or Government, ministers, other high officials, the remaining members of delegations, experts participating in the working groups, and media representatives. The institutions organising expert meetings were able to provide presents of their own at the meetings.
2.5. Publications

An unorthodox contribution of the Presidency to the promotion of Poland was the issuing of two publications, designed from scratch as part of the information and gift sets for the participants of the meetings and the media. The first of them was ‘About Polska’: a modern and functional guidebook in English to help foreigners understand Poland and Poles in an attractive and accessible manner, and to discover the most interesting places recommended by public figures and cultural organisers. In its eight chapters, the book presents a coherent, transparent, and up-to-date review of the most important fields of business, civic, and cultural life of Poland. It pays attention to the places, people, and phenomena that demonstrate that Poland is a country of rich tradition, and at the same time creative, modern, and dynamic.

The other official publication of the Presidency was the lifestyle cookbook ‘Cuisine PL’, published in English, French, Russian, and Polish, and promoting the best in Polish cooking. Traditional Polish dishes based on foods generally associated with Polish cuisine (e.g. cucumber, buckwheat, poppy seed, herring) were arranged in a highly modern way by 16 famous chefs. Each recipe is preceded by a description of the products tailored to the foreign reader, and provided with the cultural context of the dish.

‘About Polska’ and ‘Cuisine PL’ were unconventional publications, aimed at inspiring further visits to Poland, and complementing in an intelligent manner the information packages and presents for foreign delegations. Their role was to kindle the appetite for Poland rather than provide extensive knowledge about the current political, economic, and cultural situation of the country. The publications attract attention to the places, people, and phenomena that corroborate the image of Poland and Poles as a nation with tradition and ambitions that is at the same time creative, modern, and dynamic.

‘About Polska’ and ‘Cuisine PL’ were published in line with the visual identification of the Presidency. Minimalist form, good design and illustrations, and useful character were stressed. Both the publications enjoyed much popularity among both delegates and journalists. The Presidency published 12,000 copies of each publication altogether, with the Polish foreign missions printing 13,000 additional copies of ‘About Polska’ and 10,000 copies of ‘Cuisine PL’. Moreover, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs commissioned the development of a tablet application based on the two publications, which was a pioneering project on the scale of the entire state administration. Applications can be downloaded from anywhere in the world free of charge from AppStore and Android Market. During the first month of its online presence, ‘Cuisine PL’ was downloaded more than 7000 times, becoming one of the most popular applications in the books category. The advantages of digital publication include the possibility of regular updating and increasing outreach while minimising the costs and negative impact on the natural environment. Thanks to their good reception and universal content, both ‘About Polska’ and ‘Cuisine PL’ will continue to be used by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in public diplomacy projects in future: both in hardcopy and as tablet applications.

2.5.4. Presidency furniture

The keystone of the visual identification of the Presidency was the idea to provide the venues of the Polish Presidency in Poland and in Brussels with image-building furniture. As the third-largest producer of furniture in Europe and fourth in the world, Poland has vast design and intellectual potential in the area.

Work on the arrangements of selected interiors in the venues where the meetings of the Presidency were held began in early 2010. The basic challenge that the artists faced was to design universal furniture that would allow adjustment to the variety of the interiors of Presidency venues, and enable the arrangement to be altered for the various needs of the individual meetings, at the same time remaining high-quality objects of everyday use – the entire arrangement was repeatedly used at several venues in line with the formula of holding meetings ‘region by region’.

The works resulted in the development of a system of artistic furniture with a coherent expression and variety of uses, configurable and allowing combination of individual elements depending on the functional needs of the space. The common denominator of the elements of the arrangement is the juxtaposition of natural and traditional Polish materials, namely beech wood and wool, with the freshness of contemporary design and the use of modern industry with its technologically advanced, innovative solutions.
The designer of a large proportion of the furnishing was Tomek Rygalik, a representative of the young generation of Polish industrial design in the world, and a well-known furniture and interior designer in Poland.

As a result of the tendering procedure, furniture of other Polish designers was also purchased to increase the extent of promotion of Polish furniture design. Such furniture included the more decorative elements, as was the case with the tree stumps by Małe Laboratorium Formy Malafor, and the system of conference tables designed by Piotr Kuchciński, whose distinguishing features include universal character and flexibility of application as well as high comfort of use. The original and sophisticated aesthetic qualities of the Interfacefloor carpeting, together with the interactive installation of Genotyp lamps, provided a powerful accent in one of the sites most important for the image, the Justus Lipsius Building in Brussels.

2.5.5. Coherence of the visual identification of the Presidency and entire administration

As a complement to the existing guidelines concerning the visual identification materials of the Polish Presidency (the first document to discuss in detail the principles and goals of visual identification of the Presidency and promotion of Poland during the Presidency was ‘Wytyczne dotyczące polityki komunikacyjnej polskiej prezydencji w Radzie UE w 2011 roku’ [Guidelines concerning the communication policy of the Polish Presidency of the EU Council in 2011], approved by the Committee for European Affairs on 30 July 2010) a document entitled ‘Wytyczne dot. resortowych materiałów promocyjnych na spotkania odbywające się podczas Prezydencji’ [Guidelines concerning the sectoral promotional materials for the meetings held during the Presidency] was developed. It contained the principles for the selection of sectoral presents, and guidelines concerning the environmentally friendly character of promotional materials and packaging. A similar document on the visual identification of the Presidency
2.5. Promotion, information, culture

and the guidelines for its use was designed with the regions where the central meetings of the Presidency took place in mind. The actions described above aimed at ensuring cohesion in the visual identification of the Polish Presidency.

2.5.6. Communication
(NGOs, the Internet, social campaigns)

2.5.6.1. Internal communication during the Presidency

Network of contact points

In 2009, the institutions involved in the preparations for the Polish Presidency were asked to nominate within their structures the so-called Presidency Contact Points. The scope of the tasks carried out by the Presidency Contact Point included:

» coordination of the flow of information concerning preparations for the Presidency
» facilitating mutual contacts for people directly involved in preparations for the Presidency, dealing with specific thematic areas (e.g. the question of the multiannual programme, the calendar, etc.)
» participation in regular meetings organised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and concerning the review of current activities for preparation for the Polish Presidency.

The Presidency Contact Points were appointed in 66 central institutions. The meetings were organised on average once a month (the shorter the time remaining to the Presidency, the less often). Discussed during the meetings was the current state of preparations in the following areas: human resources, training, budget, partnership, logistics, promotion and information, programming, and translation and interpretation.

The Presidency Contact Points were obliged to share the information they acquired at the meeting with all the employees of their institution and the units reporting to it and involved in the preparations for the Polish Presidency.

The meetings were organised starting in September 2009; their total number was 20.

Current information

The Department of Coordination of Poland’s Presidency of EU Council prepared so-called current information regularly, including a review of preparations for the Presidency in the following areas: programming, logistics, budget, HR and training, promotion and information, and a brief recap of the events accompanying the preparations, including conferences and seminars. Current information was sent directly to the directors of individual departments in the ministries and to the Presidency Contact Points. Moreover, the information was published on the intranet of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, so that all the employees of the ministry, including the staff of diplomatic and consular missions, had access to it.

Presidency extranet

To ensure efficient and quick communication between the institutions involved in the preparation of the Polish Presidency, in May 2010 the Ministry of Foreign Affairs launched the Extranet of the 2011 Polish Presidency. The service operated at the address extranet.prezydencjaue.gov.pl, and required authorisation for access. Management of the service was in the hands of the Department of Coordination of Poland’s Presidency of the EU Council.

The Extranet of the Polish Presidency is a communications tool aimed at facilitating the exchange of information about the current state of preparations for the Presidency by gathering all the materials concerning the preparations within a single space. Additionally, it increased the efficiency of work by staff, and lowered administrative costs (by reducing paper consumption and the number of telephone conversations). More than 120 institutions had access to the service, their number including ministries, central institutions, and foreign missions. A variety of information was also entered on the system by the Ministry’s Department of Coordination of Poland’s Presidency of the EU Council at the request of other institutions.

Users of the Presidency’s extranet were the Presidency Contact Points, members of the Presidency Corps, and other people nominated by institutions and missions and involved in the process of preparation for the Presidency – altogether approx. 3000 people. Users gained access to
the system by creating accounts that protected logging in by a combination of user name and password.

While the service was in operation, studies of the functionality of the Presidency’s extranet were conducted twice. The first of the studies took place in July 2010 among the Presidency Contact Points, and the second in October 2010 among the administration employees with extranet accounts. In both cases, the respondents believed that the launch of the portal was necessary (over 80%), and half of them confirmed that its operation helped to reinforce internal communication between the institutions in the process of preparations for the Presidency. More than 60% of the Presidency extranet users confirmed that the portal made it possible to find the desired information quickly. Moreover, approximately 80% of the respondents approved of the visual layout of the service and its transparency. No technical problems related to the operation of the portal were encountered. Of the people participating in the study, 60% considered the Calendar and Logistics section the most important, while 14% favoured the Budget section. A third of respondents wanted the system to be more interactive. The staff of the institutions also mentioned that being allowed to make entries in the Documents Library would be justified as well.

2.5.6.2. Social campaigns: promotion of the Polish Presidency on the Internet

A special document entitled ‘Wytyczne dot. promocji polskiej prezydencji w Internecie’ [Guidelines concerning the promotion of the Polish Presidency on the Internet] was designed in November 2010, especially for the needs of the strategic implementation of activities on the Internet. It included the description of the stages of individual activities and channels, and also general principles of communication on the network. The most important guidelines for the tasks conducted included:

» clear language with no official jargon – the Presidency was a complex political process, yet one which could be written about in an accessible and interesting manner

» opening to dialogue: online presence primarily entails openness to bilateral communication and co-authoring of contents by internet users. The goal was to include the users in direct discussion about various aspects of holding the Presidency, and also allow them an opportunity to express their questions, ideas, and also criticism actively

» invitation to participation: the objective was to show that the Polish Presidency is not only a political action, but also a huge social and cultural project, in which every citizen may become involved.

2.5.6.3. Websites

www.prezydencjaue.gov.pl

Poland was the first country to launch a website documenting the process of preparing for the Presidency, which was done as early as February 2009. The news published on the website for more than two years concerned various aspects of the preparations for the Polish Presidency. Thanks to the collaboration with non-governmental organisations and various academic institutions, the website also published invitations to conferences and meetings.

Table 12. Statistics of the www.prezydencjaue.gov.pl website

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<th>No. of users</th>
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Most visits to the website dedicated to the preparation for the Presidency were recorded from January to June 2011, which matched the increase in the public interest at the beginning of the Polish Presidency. The statistics of visits while the website was operational and also the number of users in individual months are presented in the table below.
2.5. Promotion, information, culture

The largest number of visits to the portal was recorded in July 2011, with the launching of the Presidency. Later, a high level of interest in information provided by the portal was registered in September, October, and November. During the holidays (August), and towards the end of the Presidency (December) major drops in the numbers of visitors and page views were registered. The statistics of the portal from June to December 2011 and the countries of origin of the visitors are presented in the tables below.

Table 13. Statistics for the website www.pl2011.eu

<table>
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<th>No. of users</th>
<th>No. of page views</th>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 2011</td>
<td>122,630</td>
<td>79,182</td>
<td>369,114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 2011</td>
<td>88,339</td>
<td>59,539</td>
<td>254,525</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 14. Sources of visits of the www.pl2011.eu website

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>% of visitors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>60.62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>9.22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>4.04%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>3.29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UK</td>
<td>2.32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>1.79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>1.19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>1.13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>0.98%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>0.82%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The official portal of the Polish Presidency – www.pl2011.eu – was launched on 22 June 2011. The service was divided into the following sections: Meetings and Events, Presidency, Poland, Media, After Hours, and Cultural Programme. The website was based on the Drupal Content Management System.

Users most frequently visited the following tabs: Political News, Presidency Calendar, Visual Identity, Presidency Programme, Poland – Cities, and Online Transmission.
Table 15. The most popular materials on the Videoblog of the Presidency

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>No. of page views</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>‘Warsaw Talking: highlights from the concert’</td>
<td>26,322</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‘Polish Presidency – 6 months in 120 seconds (2 versions)’</td>
<td>11,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‘Meetings in Sopot’</td>
<td>6,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‘Every passer-by in Moscow’</td>
<td>5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‘Prezydencja na półmetku (The Polish Presidency at halfway)’</td>
<td>4,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‘Multimedia fountain show’</td>
<td>3,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‘Cuisine PL (Poland with no schnitzel)’</td>
<td>3,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‘Dizajnerskie gadżety prezydencji (Designer Presidency Gadgets)’</td>
<td>3,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‘The fleet of the Polish Presidency (Last call)’</td>
<td>3,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‘Chopin in Europe’</td>
<td>3,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The portal operated in four language versions – Polish, English, French, and German. It was also adjusted to the needs of the visually impaired, as it featured a special application allowing the articles to be read aloud.

Throughout the portal’s operation, a total of 693 articles were published, of which 508 were in the News tab, 78 in Cultural Programme, 23 in Media, and 84 in the After Hours section. The articles on the portal and the films published on the video blog were promoted with the Google Adwords and Promoted Videos advertising tools.

www.culture.pl

In addition, the official website of the Polish and foreign cultural programme of the Presidency was launched at www.culture.pl (more information about the portal can be found in subchapter 2.5.12). The statistics of this website in the 3rd and 4th quarters of 2011 are presented in the table below.

Table 16. Statistics of the website www.culture.pl

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statistics in the 3rd quarter 2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Unique users</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Visits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Page views</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Average time spent on the site</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Countries/territories</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 16. Statistics of the website www.culture.pl

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statistics in the 4th quarter 2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Unique users</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Visits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Page views</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Average time spent on the site</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Countries/territories</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.5.6.4. Social media

The key tool in online communication of the Polish Presidency was social media channels. Using them, we were able to talk directly to internet users, give them information about the events related to the Presidency, and also monitor the positive and negative assessment of the activity of the Polish Presidency.

Facebook

A Facebook profile started in December 2009. By December 2011, it had gained 30,500 ‘likes’. Besides day-to-day communication, the front page featured a number of applications that provided surfers with knowledge of the Polish Presidency in an amusing manner. The applications included the planning of the EU budget, a quiz on the Polish Presidency, and also the design of the poster of the Polish Presidency. The promotion on the Facebook profile was supported by a context campaign. The number of fans of the profile of the Presidency on Facebook is presented in Graph 2.

Graph 2. Number of Presidency profile fans at facebook.com
The ten countries with the largest number of fans of the Polish Presidency profile are presented in the table below.

Table 17. Countries with the largest numbers of fans of the Polish Presidency profile

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>No. of fans</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>25,822</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>636</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UK</td>
<td>534</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>499</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>320</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>307</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>246</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hungary</td>
<td>189</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>155</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>122</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The age profile of the fans of the Polish Presidency is presented in the table below.

Table 18. Age of fans of the Polish Presidency

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>% of fans</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13-17</td>
<td>9.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-24</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-34</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35-44</td>
<td>9.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-54</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55+</td>
<td>4.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The number of fans of the Presidency’s profile on nk.pl is presented in Graph 3.

Graph 3. Number of fans of the Presidency’s profile on nk.pl

Other channels

The Polish Presidency ran two official channels on Twitter. The first was devoted to information about political events, and was run by the Spokesperson of the Presidency (1700 followers). The other profile was of a social and cultural type, and informed of the events addressed to people, and also presented the Presidency of the Council of the European Union behind the scenes (500 followers). The Presidency also had its profiles on blip.pl and goldenline.pl.

2.5.6.5. Special projects

Campaign for 1 July 2011

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs contacted the three leading Polish portals, Google Polska, Onet.pl, and Nk.pl directly to run a joint campaign on the occasion of the inauguration of the Polish Presidency. As a result, on 1 July, Nk.pl and Onet.pl included the logo of the Presidency on their start-up pages, and Google Polska published a special doodle, designed in an art competition for children (in which the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was a partner). This joint gesture in the virtual space symbolised the solidarity of Poles during the Presidency and provided a joint civic celebration of this historic event.
Viral movies

Three viral movies were produced to show in an amusing style the practical results of the Presidency. The number of page views of the films on the Presidency YouTube Channel exceeded 50,000.

Animated film

The premiere screening of the animated film promoting the Polish Presidency by Tomasz Bagiński was held on 27 June 2011. The film was prepared in 2D and 3D versions in four lengths: 30 seconds, 60 seconds, 90 seconds, and 180 seconds. On the day of the inauguration of the Presidency, the film was screened in public transport and municipal spaces throughout Poland. Moreover, during the Polish Presidency the film was repeatedly aired on TV, and presented online, in the Multikino cinema chain, and in public places, during official events of the Polish Presidency of the EU Council, and also at projects run by Polish missions. Also, the film was presented at film and music festivals in Poland and abroad and during mass events.

Presidency postage and coins

On the power of an agreement on collaboration concluded between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the National Bank of Poland, and on the power of agreements on collaboration between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Polish Post, the following were issued:

- on 1 July 2011:
  - 4000 collectable gold coins with the logo of the Polish Presidency
  - 50,000 collectable silver coins with the logo of the Polish Presidency
  - 800,000 2-zloty coins for circulation with the logo of Polish Presidency,
- and on 30 June 2011:
  - 500,000 postage stamps with the logo of the Polish Presidency
  - 50,000 postcards with the logo of the Polish Presidency.

Photocodes

Special photocodes (QR codes) were designed for the needs of the 1700 Events at Your Fingertips campaign, promoting the cultural programme of the Presidency. Once scanned, they guided smartphones to information about current events of the Polish Presidency. Posters with the codes on were distributed among institutions of higher education, Regional European Information Centres, the Europe Direct network, libraries, and institutions. Moreover, PKP Intercity, an official partner of the campaign, distributed 15,000 leaflets with QR codes in their trains connecting academic cities.
2.5. Promotion, information, culture

‘Dobrodošli’ Campaign

To commemorate the signing of the EU Accession Treaty by Croatia on 9 December 2011, the Polish Presidency prepared a welcome film entitled ‘Dobrodošli’. It consisted of greetings sent by web users recorded on the streets of Polish cities. The film proved a hit on the Croatian Internet, and boasted 50,000 page views within just the first 48 hours (80,000 as of the end of January 2012). It was also published by all the leading Croatian web portals and aired on Croatian national television.

In response to the Polish film ‘Dobrodošli’, Croatians created their own – ‘Zahvala Polsko’. Published online on 23 December 2011, the film features students, residents of Zagreb, and also the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Croatia, Vesna Pusić.

‘Dobrodošli’ was very well received in Croatia, and the government of the country decided to use it for the campaign before the accession referendum. The Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs provided a copy of the film that was later aired on national and local TV in Croatia.

2.5.7. Patronages of the Polish Presidency 2011

From 1 December 2009 to 15 April 2011, it was possible to apply for the official patronage of the Polish Presidency. Applications could be made by public and commercial entities, civic organisations, local and regional authorities, and other institutions. The opportunity was available to both Polish and foreign institutions. The events organised by ministries, central institutions, and non-governmental organisations that were organised with the support of the Office of the Committee for European Integration and/or Ministry of Foreign Affairs grants were excluded from applying for patronage.

Providing a project with patronage entailed no financial support from the office providing services to the Government Plenipotentiary for the Preparation of Administrative Agencies and Poland’s Presidency of the Council of the EU.

The patronage of the Polish Presidency extended over projects whose implementation was envisaged for the second half of 2011, which were related to the priorities of the Polish Presidency and contributed to the promotion of the Polish Presidency of the EU Council in 2011 among Polish and foreign populations. The events involved local communities for the sake of the Polish Presidency, and not only enriched its cultural programme and artistic value but also provided an opportunity for Poland and the Polish people to co-decide on the directions and the form of the process of European integration.

A significant factor taken into account during the assessment of projects was their contribution to the achievement of goals and priorities of the Polish Presidency, and presentation of opportunities and capacity resulting from European integration to citizens.

Altogether, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs received 465 applications for the patronage of the Polish Presidency, of which 286 were adjudicated favourably based on Decision No. 4 of the Government Plenipotentiary for the Preparation of Government Administration Bodies and for the Republic of Poland’s Presidency of the Council of the European Union of 14 December 2009 concerning the definition of guidelines for award of the patronage of Polish Presidency and the Council of the European Union in 2011. These were projects of an educational, cultural, academic and scientific, civic, and sporting nature for which there was a dominant conviction that they would actively favour the promotion and achievement of goals and priorities of the Polish Presidency of the EU Council. The patronage of the Presidency extended over a range of events, including exhibitions, stage productions, conferences, seminars, fairs, forums, festivals, competitions, and marathons and sporting tournaments. The jury analysed 13 foreign applications (from Belgium, the United Kingdom, the Czech Republic, and France). They were all assessed favourably.

Above all, the patronage of the Polish Presidency could not be extended to projects that were conducted on dates other than the period from July to December 2011. Moreover, those that were political, religious, or commercial in nature or of a typically local nature and made no reference to the idea of European Community or the Polish Presidency of the EU Council were also ineligible.

Among the regions where most projects covered by the patronage of the Polish Presidency were conducted, first came Mazovia (83 applications submitted, of which 62 were accepted). The fewest events covered by the patronage were held in the following regions: Opolskie, Warmian-Masurian, and Świętokrzyskie – two in each. The chart below presents the number of events covered by the Presidency Patronage in all the regions of Poland.
Graph 4. Number of events covered by the patronage of the Polish Presidency

2.5.8. Education, information, dialogue with schools and non-governmental organisations in Poland

At the stage of preparations for the Presidency, it was recognised in the document entitled ‘Wytyczne dot. działań komunikacyjnych [Guidelines concerning communication activity] that educational and information activity are necessary for increasing the level of awareness and knowledge among the community concerning issues related to the Presidency and the EU. This is why a decision was made to enter a broad range of social dialogue, which covered local and regional authorities, non-governmental organisations, educational facilities, and individual citizens. The goal of the information activities was to initiate collaboration with target groups and acquire their support, understanding, and involvement. The premises for the activities embarked on, which are described in detail further in the chapter, included:

» multistage activities building up suspense and ending in finals just before or during the Presidency;
» involvement of selected target groups and informing other ones;
» preparation of unorthodox activities, with a pinch of salt and a touch of self-mockery, yet without reinforcing stereotypes.

2.5.8.1. Collaboration with non-governmental organisations

Collaboration with the Polish NGO community in the scope of the Polish Presidency was initiated in July 2009. During the meeting organised by the Office of the Committee for European Integration, forms of cooperation were proposed and permanent channels of communication were fixed. In the second half of 2009, two expert opinions concerning collaboration with the non-governmental sector on information about the Presidency were performed on the commission of the Office of the Committee for European Integration:

» ‘Aktywność polskich organizacji pozarządowych na szczeblu europejskim’ [Activity of Polish non-governmental organisations at European level] by DemosEuropa;
» ‘Opracowanie koncepcji stałej współpracy pomiędzy administracją rządową a trzecim sektorem w Polsce w zakresie informowania społeczeństwa o polskim przewodnictwie w Radzie UE’ [Drafting the concept of permanent collaboration between governmental administration and the third sector in Poland in the scope of informing the society about the Polish Presidency of the EU Council] by the Institute of Public Affairs.

Organised in December 2009 was a national conference on the questions of the Polish Presidency of the EU Council, with the participation of approximately 150 representatives of Polish NGOs.

On 27 December 2010, the competition for non-governmental organisations for the implementation of projects devoted to the Polish Presidency in the whole territory of Poland was decided. Awarded were 16 grants to a total amount of PLN 1,090,000. The projects were conducted from January to July 2011.

From January 2011 to March 2012, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in collaboration with Poland’s largest non-governmental organisation portal (www.ngo.pl) ran a service on the Polish Presidency for third sector circles. This provided interested NGOs with an exchange of information concerning the Presidency and also offered them an opportunity to present their own actions. More than 20,000 entries were recorded, and the newsletter was sent to more than 500 recipients.

16 http://www.konferencjango.pl
The Ministry of Foreign Affairs co-financed an NGO conference accompanying the Eastern Partnership Summit. The organiser of the conference, held on 29 September 2011, was the Polish Institute for International Affairs (PISM). The event attracted 200 representatives of Polish and foreign non-governmental organisations.

The Regional European Information Centres network was actively involved in the Presidency. This allowed approximately 1800 projects to be conducted, including:

- over 600 European lessons devoted to the Polish Presidency
- more than 330 meetings and lectures for various groups of recipients concerning the Polish Presidency
- approximately 150 information stands promoting the Polish Presidency during various events, including conferences, open days, education fairs, lectures
- 110 competitions on subjects related to the Polish Presidency
- 148 articles in the regional and local press concerning the Polish Presidency
- more than 20 training sessions and workshops concerning the Polish Presidency
- approximately 40 local radio/TV programmes related to the Polish Presidency
- more than 30 conferences and seminars devoted to the Polish Presidency
- training for the 35 trainers of the Regional European Information Centres.

2.5.8.2. Competition for non-governmental organisations – promotion of the Presidency

In September 2010, a tab for young people opened on the Presidency website – www.prezydencjaue.gov.pl. The tab contained information about competitions and events designed for the young. Beginning in July 2011, the tab became part of the official website of the Polish Presidency. One hundred days before the inauguration of the Presidency, on 23 March 2011, a multimedia debate organised in collaboration with the European Commission was held at the University of Warsaw. The guest of the debate was the Plenipotentiary – Minister Mikolaj Dowgielewicz, who answered the questions of students from academic centres from all over Poland. The main subjects addressed at the conference were the priorities of the Polish Presidency and the challenges facing it. The debate was followed by a spontaneous flashmob marking 100 days to the event with the participation of young people, organised on Krakowskie Przedmiescie Street.

January 2011 saw adjudication in a competition for students of art schools, with the motto being ‘Polish Presidency for Europe’. Twenty-four artistic schools provided 239 works, of which 46 received awards. They provided the pool for the exhibitions of posters presented during the occasional events related to the Polish Presidency in Warsaw, Brussels, and Luxembourg. Commissioner Janusz Lewandowski assumed the patronage over the exhibition in the building of the European Commission in Brussels.

On the commission of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, a comic book by Przemyslaw Truścinski and Grzegorz Janusz promoting the Polish Presidency was published. Designed for Polish and European readers aged from 15 to 60, it was published in Polish (14,000 copies) and English (6000 copies) and was also available online in Polish, English, German, French, and Russian. The comic book was distributed during the meetings of the Presidency, events of the cultural programme of the Polish Presidency in Poland, and abroad by the network of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the network of Regional European Information Centres.

2.5.8.3. Education, projects involving young people and teachers

In April 2011, adjudication took place in the annual competition of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs addressed to non-governmental organisations, research institutes and public and non-public institutions of higher education, entitled ‘Promoting Knowledge of Poland – 2011’. For the Presidency in 2011, the priorities of the competition included actions concerning public diplomacy and pertaining to the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union. Moreover, the projects concerning collaboration with the countries of the Eastern Partnership as well as reinforcement of Polish-Russian and Polish-Jewish relations were treated as priorities. Excluded from the competition were projects consisting of one-off artistic events. Preferential treatment was given to initiatives undertaken in collaboration with partners, including foreign ones.

The budget of the competition amounted to PLN 4 million. The Competition Jury awarded several dozen projects that were conducted in Poland and a number of other countries (including Ukraine, Russia, Israel, Belgium and the countries of the Eastern Partnership and Western Balkans). Their number included study visits of journalists, conferences, seminars and workshops, youth exchanges, collaboration of institutions of higher education and academic centres, and publications.
Furthermore, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced an essay competition for students of institutions of higher education in Poland. Out of the 70 works from all over the country, the Competition Jury (the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the European Parliament Information Office, and the European Commission Representation in Poland) and two independent experts in European studies selected 30 winners, who were awarded a visit to the headquarters of the EU Council in Brussels to play a strategy game. Every participant played the role of a Minister of Foreign Affairs of one of EU Member States, to debate the priorities of the Polish Presidency. The game took place on 15 December 2011 at the headquarters of the EU Council.

In October 2011, the participants of a competition for a lesson plan about Europe designed for teachers of lower and upper secondary schools in Poland were presented with awards and distinctions. Submitted were 99 lesson plans for history, civic education, Polish language, English, geography, physical education, mathematics, cultural education, and also extracurricular activities, including activities in school European clubs. The winning plans were made available online and published on CDs that were delivered to Regional European Information Centres to be presented during training for teachers.

The Presidency was the leading theme of another round of the ‘My School in the European Union – Back to School’ programme, which was launched in September 2011. The task of the young people participating in the programme was to organise discussions, debates, exhibitions, competitions and quizzes, and to prepare school newsletters concerning subjects related to voluntary service and the Polish Presidency. The task of the schools that qualified for the national stage of the competition will be to invite a Polish officer from the European Commission or a member of the European Parliament and to send an account from the event to the jury. The main award will be a study visit to European institutions in Brussels. The final verdict will be made known in May 2012.

As part of the ‘Back to School’ programme, the Plenipotentiary visited the Mikołaj Rej Comprehensive Upper Secondary School in Warsaw, where on 4 November 2011 he conducted ‘a European lesson’. Similar visits to secondary schools during the Polish Presidency were also held by some members of the Committee for European Affairs.

The European ‘Back to School’ initiative was held for the first time in 2007 as an initiative of the European Commission and the German government to add to the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Rome. Since that time, ‘Back to School’ has been organised in the Member States holding the presidency of the EU Council.

From December 2011 to the end of March 2012, one-day training sessions (two in each region) for 960 teachers were organised throughout Poland. The subjects were related to the Polish Presidency of the EU Council and the communication priorities concerning the operation of the European Union.

The following took place in 2011 as part of the current activity of the European Information Centre reporting to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs:

- 7 open lectures devoted to the Polish Presidency
- 94 European lessons concerning the subjects of the Presidency, during which a multimedia presentation on the Presidency was presented
- two special meetings as part of the EU for Seniors series devoted to the Presidency.

The European Information Centre of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs organised seven information stands presenting, among other things, information and promotional materials related to the Presidency, where consultations were provided. The following information materials, referring to the Presidency, were designed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the needs of educational activities:

- ‘Rada Unii Europejskiej’ / ‘Council of the European Union’ – booklet concerning the operation of the EU Council; 20,000 copies
- ‘Prezydencja w Radzie Unii Europejskiej’ / ‘Presidency of the Council of the European Union’ – a booklet by Professor Jan Barcz designed for people interested in the subject of the Polish Presidency; 30,000 copies
- ‘To i owo o Unii Europejskiej’ / ‘This and that about the European Union’ – book presenting the history, institutions, and law of the European Union, designed for school pupils and teachers; 10,000 copies
- ‘Prezydencja bez prezydenta’ / ‘Presidency without a President’ – a booklet for school pupils and teachers; 20,000 copies.
2.5. Promotion, information, culture

2.5.8.4. Projects conducted in the city space

Arranged on 2 July 2011 in Plac Zamkowy (Castle Square) in Warsaw was a carpet of 14,000 flowers presenting the logo of the Polish Presidency. Participating in the visual opening were the Mayor of Warsaw Hanna Gronkiewicz-Waltz and the Plenipotentiary – Secretary of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mikołaj Dowgielewicz. After the completion of the project, the flowers were presented to passers-by. It is estimated that the carpet in the Castle Square in Warsaw was seen live by over 10,000 people. Its arrangement was reported live by TV and radio broadcasters and websites.

For the Presidency the Ministry of Foreign Affairs took the initiative to expand the motto of a competition organised by Warsaw City Council and Society of Friends of Warsaw – Floral and Green Warsaw 2011 – by adding the Floral Presidency component. Residents of Warsaw were encouraged to decorate their balconies and gardens and also public buildings, residential settlements, backyards, courtyards, quadrangles, squares, restaurant and café gardens, and windows of shops and institutions with floral compositions in the colours of Poland and the EU. The 28 Warsaw winners received awards for their beautiful yellow-and-blue and white-and-red floral compositions.

Also in collaboration with the Warsaw City Council, which launched a multimedia fountain as part of a car park revival project in Podzamcze, multimedia shows took place, displayed on city fountains, focusing on European subjects. On 2 July 2011, the day of the project’s inauguration, an animated film promoting the Polish Presidency was screened. Altogether, eight shows focusing on European subjects were presented, with each attracting from 5000 to 10,000 people.

Based on a contract between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Sport and Tourism, 37 sporting events organised throughout the country were covered by the patronage of the Polish Presidency. The number of participants in each of them ranged from over 10,000 people to several times that number. Participants received small gifts with the logo of the Polish Presidency: cotton bags, bracelets, key rings, and ballpoint pens.

From 15 to 30 November 2011, to commemorate Poland’s Foreign Service Day, the open-air exhibition ‘Poland’s Road to the Presidency’ was made available to visitors in Warsaw’s Castle Square (Plac Zamkowy). It was designed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in collaboration with the KARTA (CHARTER) centre and consisted of 24 display boards presenting the transformations that took place in Poland from 1956 to the inauguration of the Polish Presidency. The boards had Polish and English captions, and an electronic version of the exhibition was delivered to the diplomatic missions of the Republic of Poland.
From 1 July to the end of 2011, a large-format banner (17 x 42 m), with the logo of the Presidency was fixed to the wall of the building of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at Al. Szucha 21 (to the façade in ul. Litewska), and the front windows of the building featured the same logo made of OWV film. A similar banner was placed at the Bank Gospodarstwa Krajowego (BGK) building at Al. Jerozolimskie 7 in the centre of Warsaw.

2.5.8.5. Projects for the media

From 1 July to 31 December 2011, the European Information Centre played the role of the press centre of the Polish Presidency. In this period, 24 press briefings took place at the Centre. The task was implemented in collaboration with the Office of the Spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The project required changes in the arrangement and furnishing of the Centre.

On 28 December 2011 ‘Wprost’ weekly published an editorial supplement devoted to the Polish Presidency with materials related mostly to the main achievements and the conclusion of the Presidency in numbers. The supplement was published in 172,000 copies.

Training for the media was one of the four modules of training sessions conducted for various groups of disseminators of information concerning the Polish Presidency. The thematic range of training sessions and the course book that accompanied them included information concerning the Lisbon Treaty, the decision-making process in the EU, and the presidency of the EU Council. The training was attended by 737 participants, including 597 representatives of non-governmental organisations and 140 representatives of the media.

2.5.8.6. Public opinion surveys

For the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union, the European Information Department (EID) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs monitored public opinion in the area through qualitative and quantitative studies.

Quantitative studies in the omnibus formula were conducted every two months in collaboration with the GfK Polonia Institute for Market and Public Opinion Research on a representative sample of approximately 1000 Poles aged 15+. The quantitative studies were used for the monitoring of the level of information of the Polish people about the principles, organisation, and tasks of the Presidency, the reception of the information campaign, and attitudes to the fact that the country was holding this function. The first studies concerning the Polish Presidency were conducted in December 2009, and the last, wrapping up, in January 2012.

The qualitative study, providing supplementation to the quantitative studies, was conducted in collaboration with the Centre for Public Opinion Research TNS OBOP. The project included three waves of the qualitative study (in December 2010, and in June and November 2011), with each of them held in three different cities of Poland. The study used the technique of focus group interviews based on interviewing a small group of participants of the study with the participation of a moderator, who focused the discussion on set questions. The qualitative study focused primarily on learning the actual level of knowledge of the respondents concerning the Presidency of the EU Council, their interest in the subject, the presence of the subject in the media, and the evaluation of the communication, logo and the official Presidency website.

The results of public opinion studies made it possible to sum up the information activity concerning the Polish Presidency and, first of all, proved their efficiency.

To support the claim, results of quantitative analysis concerning the knowledge of Poles concerning the dates of the Polish Presidency can be quoted. In December 2009,\textsuperscript{17} when the question about the dates of the Polish Presidency was asked, fewer than one in five responding Poles (17%) were capable of stating the correct date of Poland assuming the Presidency of the EU Council. While the function was held by Poland, more than three in every five respondents (63%) knew in December 2011\textsuperscript{18} that the Presidency of the EU Council was held by Poland in the second half of 2011.

Moreover, the (full-scale) qualitative study\textsuperscript{19} proved that less than a month (second wave) before the date of inauguration of the Polish Presidency, members of the focus groups had specific knowledge concerning the Presidency of the EU Council, while still in December 2010 (first wave) the knowledge of focus group members of the subject was low.

The results of quantitative studies\textsuperscript{20} conducted towards the end of the Polish Presidency proved that more than 3/5 of Polish respondents (63%) admitted that they found their knowledge of facts concerning the Polish Presidency of the EU Council sufficient. Slightly more than one in three respondents (34%) believed themselves to be underinformed.

The results of public opinion surveys also provided information about the Poles’ attitude to the fact of Poland holding the Presidency of the EU Council.

\textsuperscript{17} GfK Polonia on the commission of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, December 2009.
\textsuperscript{18} GfK Polonia on the commission of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, December 2011.
\textsuperscript{19} Qualitative study by TNS OBOP, commissioned by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, December 2010 and June 2011.
\textsuperscript{20} GfK Polonia on the commission of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, December 2011.
The results of quantitative studies\(^\text{21}\) prove that the vast majority of Polish respondents believed the Polish Presidency to be very important. According to the study conducted in October 2011, 71% of Polish respondents admitted that the Presidency of Poland of the EU Council was an important issue (including 14% who believed it to be very important).

The (full-scale) qualitative study\(^\text{22}\) confirms the great significance attributed to the fact of Poland’s Presidency of the Council of the European Union. During the discussion in the groups, it was emphasised that holding this function provides an opportunity to build a positive image of the country abroad, strengthens the power of the Polish voice on the European stage, and provides an opportunity to work out within the EU some solutions that would be more beneficial to Poland or at least make it possible to attract the attention of the EU to the questions that are important from the point of view of Poland.

Detailed information concerning the studies and survey of public opinion is provided in Annex No. 8 to this report.

### 2.5.9. Cultural programme

The Presidency of the EU Council provided an exceptional opportunity to shape a positive image of Poland, primarily in the EU states, but also in a more extensive international forum. The European and world states that achieve good results in creation and promotion of their own image usually put a premium on culture. An interesting artistic programme involving Polish international artists directly in the project of the Presidency provided a perfect opportunity for a meeting of European artists, intellectuals, and non-governmental organisation activists. This is why promotion of Poland through culture was treated as a separate, major area of activity of the Polish Presidency. After an analysis of the cultural programmes of the previous presidencies, it was decided to create the Cultural Programme of the Polish EU Presidency.

Following the decision of the Minister of Culture and National Heritage of 5 September 2009 approved by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, it was decided that the National Audiovisual Institute would be responsible for the preparation and implementation of the Polish Cultural Programme of the Polish EU Presidency, while the task of preparation and implementation of the World Cultural Programme of the Polish EU Presidency became the task of the Adam Mickiewicz Institute.

The Ministry of Culture, entrusted with the task of coordinating the implementation of the programme, in 2009 established the Programme Council for the Cultural Setting of the 2011 Polish Presidency of the EU Council. Its main task was to provide opinions and comments and recommend projects and initiatives related to the Cultural Programme of the Polish EU Presidency. Members of the council were directors of the most important institutions of culture: the Book Institute, Teatr Wielki – Polish National Opera, the Museum of Modern Art in Warsaw, the Zbigniew Raszewski Theatre Institute, the Polish Film Institute (PISF), the Adam Mickiewicz Institute, and the Royal Castle in Warsaw.

### 2.5.10. Polish Cultural Programme of the Polish EU Presidency 2011

Within Poland, the cultural programme was managed by the National Audiovisual Institute and coordinated by the Minister of Culture and National Heritage. The motto, and at the same time the main message of the Polish Cultural Programme of the Polish EU Presidency 2011 was *Art for Social Change*. This slogan expresses the conviction that culture today is an integral element of the social process. For that reason, the Programme aimed to encourage the consumers and creators of art to embrace a creative attitude improving artistic and social awareness and embark on a critical reflection on culture and civilisation. Following that premise, the Programme emphasised the role of non-governmental organisations and grassroots culture initiatives, and also highlighted the subject of the Eastern Partnership.

Projects were conducted in close collaboration with local organisations, NGOs, and European partners. Moreover, an extremely significant premise of the programme was its interdisciplinary character, reflected not only in the inter-combination and mutual interpenetration of fields, but also in the development of new links between high and popular culture. In this context, the Programme aimed at the activation of local communities – both artists and people who in their everyday life remained out of touch with culture – and countering various forms of social discrimination and exclusion.

The Polish Cultural Programme of the Polish EU Presidency was composed of projects deliberately carried out in the cities that hosted high-level meetings – Sopot, Wroclaw, Cracow, Poznań, and Warsaw – and additionally in Lublin, Białystok, Katowice, and Krasnogruda.

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\(^{21}\) GfK Polonia on the commission of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, October 2011.

\(^{22}\) Qualitative study by TNS OBOP, commissioned by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, December 2010, June 2011, and November 2011.
2.5.10.1. Flagship projects carried out in Poland

Krasnogruda – European Agora (30 June)

On the eve of the official commencement of the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union, and at the same time on the 100th anniversary of the birth of Czesław Miłosz, eminent European philosophers, poets, and artists discussed community in diversity in the former family mansion of the poet in Krasnogruda.

Warsaw – Inauguration of the Polish Presidency of the EU Council (1 July)

Held in the Teatr Wielki – Polish National Opera was the official premiere of ‘King Roger’, an opera by Karol Szymanowski directed by David Pountney. The production was preceded by the official section of the evening, with addresses delivered by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Poland Donald Tusk, Prime Minister of Hungary Viktor Orbán, President of the European Commission José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Parliament Jerzy Buzek, and President of the European Council Herman Van Rompuy. Also present at the event were the President of the Republic of Poland Bronisław Komorowski and the First Lady, members of the government and parliament, representatives of the diplomatic corps and Church authorities, and eminent figures from the world of politics and culture.

Musical concerts that went on for hours inspired by the culture of European national and ethnic minorities (EUharmonia) and the interdisciplinary children’s stage (EUgeniusz) from the District of Mariensztat began at noon. Similarly high popularity was enjoyed by the alternative stage (TrzeciE Ucho) at the Copernicus Science Centre and the old power plant in Powiśle. More traditional music lovers, meanwhile, were invited to spend the night at Warsaw Philharmonic Hall and listen to Symphony No. 3 by Paweł Mykietyn, composed especially for the inauguration of the Polish Presidency. The concert was transmitted live by Polish Radio 2.

The Inauguration Day closed with the final concert – WARSAW TALKING – held on Plac Defilad, with Polish and foreign artists presenting the most popular works of classical, film, and pop music. Most of all, the audience enjoyed the new English-language versions of Polish hits performed by international stars. The concert was closed by a fireworks display set to Wojciech Kilar’s ‘Orawa’. The TV transmission of the concert (on TVP 1) was seen by nearly 900,000 people. Performing on the four stages set up in Warsaw and in the Warsaw Philharmonic Hall were more than 250 artists.

Sopot – Open Culture Spa (3-31 July)

As part of the Open Culture Spa project in Sopot, 16 interdisciplinary artistic projects took place. They were all grassroots local initiatives. The audience were invited to take a tour on an ARTbus – a municipal bus line transformed into an art gallery. Displayed en route were works by Tricity artists. Other events that were held in the series included the ‘Open Source Art’ (OSA) Festival and the international ‘More culture. WE ARE MORE!’ conference, organised in collaboration with Culture Action Europe, Europe’s largest network of NGOs and institutions active in the field of culture. Participating in the projects conducted in Sopot were over 150 artists representing practically every art form, and close to 5000 active participants.

YES! Katowice – Temporary Cultural Action (TAKK!) and OFF Festival (July – September)

TAKK! combined projects combining architecture, design, and contemporary music. The artists carried out a number of interventions within five cycles: art, design, workshops, concerts, and lectures in the living tissue of the city. They
portrayed the variety of Silesia, and provoked people to ask questions and seek answers concerning stereotypes related to Silesia. Also part of the framework of the Polish Cultural Programme was the 6th round of OFF Festival, the largest festival of alternative music in Central and Eastern Europe, which attracted nearly 50,000 participants. The Festival received the prestigious European Festival award for 2011 in the Best Medium-Sized Festival category.

Białystok – Journey to the East (5 August - 30 September)

Opened officially on 5 August 2011 at the Arsenał Gallery in Białystok, ‘Journey to the East’ presented contemporary art from the countries of the Eastern Partnership. The curator of the exhibition invited nearly 50 artists from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine, and Poland to participate in the project. The exhibition was visited by over 300,000 people. It was also presented at Art Kyiv Contemporary and Cracow’s MOCAK.

Warsaw – Olafur Eliasson Pavilion (September-November)

On 6 September 2011, the official unveiling of an installation by the Danish artist Olafur Eliasson took place in Warsaw at the point where Krakowskie Przedmieście and Karowa streets meet. The construction, going by the name of ‘Your Reality Machine’, became a spatial sign – sensual and sculptural in its form – easy to remember and at the same time allowing the breakdown of a typical historical perception of a location.

Wrocław – European Culture Congress (8-11 September)

One of the main tasks of the Congress was to provide a space for discussion concerning the changing definition of culture and scenarios for its development. The debates tackling the most pressing problems in contemporary culture were accompanied by interdisciplinary artistic projects conducted as part of the Social and Cultural Festival. The programme of the Congress was based on four pillars: the meeting of the ministers of culture and audiovisual affairs of EU states, meetings and discussions of leading European intellectuals, debates within the ‘A Soul for Europe’ initiative, and artistic events. The Congress brought together theoreticians and practitioners, maestros and alternative artists, representatives of the highest state authorities, European institutions and non-governmental organisations, and journalists, culture activists and organisers from Poland and abroad.

The Congress consisted of a total of 13 debates and included the completion of 100 interdisciplinary projects, a characteristic feature of which was the problem approach to culture and interdisciplinary formulas. The programme, co-authored by 550 curators and artists, was filled with a plethora of exceptional artistic projects. Brian Eno prepared the multimedia project Future Perfect presented at the Wrocław Fountain, Mirosław Bałka a creative installation entitled ‘Wege zur Behandlung von Schmerzen’, and the unprecedented meetings of Krzysztof Penderecki with Jonny Greenwood and Aphex Twin resulted in the world premieres of a range of compositions: Aphex Twin’s ‘Threnody for the Victims of Hiroshima remix’ and ‘Polymorphia Reloaded’, and Jonny Greenwood’s ‘48 Responses to Polymorphia’.
Approximately 15,000 people were registered in the accreditation system of the Congress. Additionally, entry permits were collected by 5000 people, and the total participation in Congress events was verging on 200,000 participants. Involved in its organisation were nearly 100 non-governmental organisations from Poland and Europe, and more than 550 volunteers.

**Lublin – Mindware. Technologies of Dialogue / The Oldest Songs of Europe Tradition and Avant-Garde / Theatre Confrontations Festival (September-October)**

The programme conducted in Lublin was composed of joint projects by artists, animators, and non-governmental organisations representing local institutions and partners from Lviv, Vilnius, Minsk, Kyiv, and Tbilisi. Collaboration was to a large extent based on artistic changes, and its main subject was considerations concerning the borders of Europe. The programme of ‘Mindware. Technologies of Dialogue’ was composed of three parts: residencies, public presentation of artistic works, and the theoretical part covering lectures, meetings, and discussions with the participation of artists and experts and devoted to the artistic reflection concerning community communication within the city space. Also included in the Lublin part of the Polish Cultural Programme were the 16th Theatre Confrontations Festival devoted to the analyses of transformations in Russian theatre and that of the former Soviet republics (more than 20,000 spectators) and a special round of ‘The Oldest Songs of Europe Tradition and Avant-Garde Festival’ (nearly 3000 spectators).

**Cracow – IETM Meeting / Cracow Theatrical Reminiscences / Unsound Festival (October)**

The Cracow events of the Programme included, held for the first time in Poland, the congress of the ‘International Network for Contemporary Performing Arts’, Europe’s largest organisation gathering institutions operating in the field of performing arts. Nearly 400 congress participants, professionals representing Polish and foreign institutions of culture, participated in the productions of Cracow Theatre Reminiscences. Also held in Cracow was the first congress opening the operation of the ‘East European Performing Arts Platform’ (EEPAP), an international platform for exchange between artists and curators of performing arts from Central and Eastern Europe. The third event comprising the Programme of the Presidency was the 9th Unsound Festival with progressive music and related visual arts.

**Poznań – Poznań Baroque Early Music Festival / Old Music – New Dance (November)**

A large proportion of the Poznań Baroque Festival is based on the idea of collaboration between young artists and the personalities established in the realm of early music. A significant premise of the Festival was the construction of deep and long-lasting relationships between artists from Poland and other countries in the unique field of early music. The programme enjoyed a very strong educational aspect, not only due to the enrolment of young Polish musicians to the Generation Baroque formation, but also thanks to free access to the general public to all the concerts. Altogether, 10,000 people listened to the concerts.

The overarching goal in the creation of ‘Old Music – New Dance’ was turning early music into inspiration for the latest pursuits in modern choreography. A creative combination of what would seem like two distant fields and aesthetics resulted in three dance premieres supervised by artists from Cyprus, Poland, and Denmark.

Besides the special projects described above, the Cultural Programme of the Polish EU Presidency included around 60 of the most important Polish festivals and over 60 projects recommended by the Programme Council for the Cultural Setting of the Polish Presidency of the Council of the EU.
2.5.11. World Cultural Programme of the Polish Presidency 2011

The World Cultural Programme of the Polish EU Presidency 2011 covered over 400 events organised in 10 world capitals: Brussels, Berlin, London, Paris, Madrid, Moscow, Kyiv, Minsk, Tokyo, and Beijing. The programme was run by the Adam Mickiewicz Institute in collaboration with the Polish foreign missions reporting to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, including Polish Institutes, foreign partners, and Polish institutions of culture. An important part of the programme was the projects selected through the Polish Presidency 2011 – the Promesa programme of the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage. The World Cultural Programme of the Polish EU Presidency conducted in 10 priority capital cities was complemented by projects selected by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs through an internal competition for the remaining Polish foreign missions.

2.5.11.1. The most important events taking place abroad

The core of the Programme, following the motto ‘I, Culture. Made in the EU. Powered by Poland’, consisted of six pillars, which included icons of contemporary Polish culture. The prose works of Stanisław Lem inspired the open-air Planeta Lem production by the Biuro Podróży Theatre. It premiered on 1 July 2011 at the ‘Watch This Space’ festival held at the National Theatre in London. The subsequent performances visited Brussels, Berlin, Paris, Madrid, Kyiv, Minsk, and Moscow. The performance was seen by 10,500 spectators. Readers received a comic book based on two tales from the famous ‘Bajki robotów’ (‘Mortal Engines’), drawn by Andrzej Klimowski and Danuta Szejbal.

The Czesław Milosz-Audiobook project came about in collaboration with Polish Institutes and Polish diplomatic missions. Selected poems by Milosz resounded in 10 languages, delivered by stars of world film and theatre stages (Stephen Fry, Toru Watanabe, Barbara Nüss, Tang Guoqiang, Sergey Yursky, José Luis Gómez, and Aitana Sánchez-Gijón), and writers and poets (Serhiy Zhadan, Taras Prohasko, Andrei Khadanovich, Benno Barnard). The audiobooks were supplements to daily newspapers (‘El País’), magazines (‘Magazine Littéraire’, ‘The Times Literary Supplement’, ‘Ukrainskii Tyzhden’, ‘Inostrannaya Literatura’, ‘Dialogue’, ‘Krytyka’, ‘Gendaishi-techo’, and ‘Poetry’), and volumes of poetry ‘Czeslaw Milosz – Gedichten’s’ (the Netherlands). The audiobooks reached nearly 500,000 recipients. Poems in all the language versions are available in mp3 format from the www.culture.pl website and the websites of Polish Institutes and the embassies of the 10 priority capitals. Besides the above, the audiobooks were also presented during the events carried out by the Polish Institutes as part of Milosz Year.

Karlo Szymański, one of the most eminent Polish composers, was another icon of the Polish Presidency. The staging of his opera ‘King Roger’ directed by David Pountney at the Teatr Wielki – Polish National Opera in Warsaw provided the official inauguration of the Presidency. Concert and chamber performances of the composer’s works resounded in the concert halls of Brussels (La Monnaie, Palais des Beaux-Arts), Berlin (Berliner Philharmonie), Minsk (Belarusian National Philharmonic), Kyiv (Taras Shevchenko National Philharmonic and National Opera of Ukraine), London (Royal Festival Hall, Cadogan Hall), Madrid (Teatro Real), Paris (Théâtre de Châtelet, Salle Pleyel), Warsaw (Warsaw Philharmonic), Beijing (Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing), and Tokyo (Asahi Concert Hall). The concerts attracted an audience of 45,000 people.

Guide to the Poles is a series of documentary films (‘Beats of Freedom’, ‘Political Dress’, ‘Toys’, ‘Art of Freedom’, ‘Art of Disappearing’) that take viewers for a documentary journey to the source of the phenomenon of contemporary Polish freedom and creativity. The films were designed to show Poles and their achievements to the world in an attractive and at the same time surprising manner. The films were presented among others during festivals in Minsk, Tokyo, Madrid, and Paris. So far, more than 10,000 people have watched them.

I, CULTURE Puzzle is an interactive multimedia project conducted in the public space of 12 capital cities (Berlin, Brussels, Kyiv, Copenhagen, London, Madrid, Minsk, Moscow, Paris, Beijing, Tokyo, and Warsaw), whose residents jointly sewed a gigantic puzzle made of 12 squares with local patterns applied. Pieced together, the parts of the jigsaw puzzle read I, CULTURE. An important part of the project was the studies and the attempt to answer the question about the role of craft in today’s world and contemporary culture. Moreover, I, Culture Puzzle played a major community role. The communities initiated by
volunteers and initiatives of artistic campaigns in the public spaces of cities began to take shape around the project. It became the summary of an international and intercultural initiative of the Polish Presidency promoting Poland’s greatest national fortes, including creativity, stalwartness, openness, and solidarity. The campaign, organised by the artist Monika Jakubiak, attracted the participation of over 12,000 people and 240 volunteers. Its course could be followed on the Internet.

I, CULTURE Orchestra, is the first initiative of this type, established as part of the Eastern Partnership. It is composed of 110 young musicians from Poland, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine. It played its first concerts in Gdańsk, the city of Solidarity, and Stockholm. Honorary patronage over its autumn tour was assumed by the President of the Republic of Poland Bronisław Komorowski. Conducted by Sir Neville Marriner and Paweł Kotla, the orchestra played at the National Philharmonic Hall in Kyiv, Berliner Philharmonie, Conservatoire Royal de Bruxelles, Royal Festival Hall in London, Teatro Real in Madrid, and the Warsaw Philharmonic Hall. The programme of every concert included works by Karol Szymanowski, which were listened to by an audience of 10,000.

Besides the flagship projects, the programme also included showings of the most interesting productions and films, concerts of classical and contemporary music, and exhibitions and projects conducted in the public space. Many of the projects prepared especially for the Polish Presidency gained the vast recognition of spectators and critics, notably the exhibition ‘The Power of Fantasy’. ‘Modern and Contemporary Art from Poland’ at BOZAR in Brussels, considered event of the year by ‘The Financial Times’, the exhibition entitled ‘Poland — Germany. 1000 Years of Art and History’ at Martin-Gropius-Bau in Berlin, the exhibition entitled ‘Golden Age of the Polish Republic’ presented at the Royal Palace in Madrid, and exhibitions by Alina Szapocznikow (WIELS, Brussels), and Wilhelm Sasnal (Whitechapel, London).

The Polish projects were presented at famous venues recognised by foreign audiences, e.g. BOZAR (Brussels), Palacio Real, Teatro Real (Madrid), Royal Festival Hall, Barbican (London), Pid Inn Club, Ahashi Concert Hall (Tokyo), Beijing Conservatory, national philharmonic halls (Kyiv, Minsk), Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts, and Meyerhold Centre (Moscow). In turn, the interdisciplinary and public space projects presented in central locations of cities and on the underground made it possible to reach broad audiences.

Parallel to the activities conducted by the Adam Mickiewicz Institute and Polish Institutes and embassies in the 10 appointed capitals, the Cultural Programme of the Presidency was carried out on all continents by the remaining missions of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

2.5.11.2. The official website of the Cultural Programme of the Presidency

For the duration of the Presidency, the Culture.pl portal was transformed into the official website of the Polish and World Cultural Programme of the Polish EU Presidency. Here one could find not only announcements of current events, but also richly illustrated accounts, providing one of the greatest strengths of the website. Its viewing statistics rose constantly, and from July to December grew by a factor of six. Altogether, at that time it was visited by nearly one million users from all over the world. The user-friendly Hot Culture application for iPads and iPhones was launched. The culture.pl portal was complemented by the online services of the Polish Cultural Programme (uwaganakulture.pl), a special site dedicated to the European Culture Congress (culturecongress.eu) and the websites of the Programme’s chief projects, including orchestra.iam.pl, and przewodnikdopolakow.pl.
2.5.12. Public diplomacy and collaboration with the media

To reinforce the political message of the Polish Presidency towards the key groups of recipients in Brussels and opinion-forming circles in the leading capitals of the EU, and also to increase the visibility of the Presidency in the European media, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced a competition for the implementation of ‘Kampania Public Relations/Public Affairs skierowana do środowiska międzynarodowego w Bruksel w związku z objęciem przez Polskę przewodnictwa w Radzie UE’. [Public relations/public affairs campaign addressed to the international community in Brussels related to Poland’s assumption of the Presidency of the EU Council] in August 2010. The contract, carried out from April 2011 to end of March 2012, was signed with Burson-Marsteller, an international agency based in Brussels. Recognising the work covered by the competition as the starting point, the parties agreed the type, number, and dates of projects to be conducted, the target groups, goals, and also methodology of evaluation. The agreed parameters were entered in the basic document (master plan). An extensive list of the key stakeholders from the point of view of priority subjects of the political programme of the Polish Presidency was also drafted. The support from Burson-Marsteller covered five areas (listed below according to the intensity of involvement and costs incurred): Public Affairs; Media Relations; Coordination Planning and Evaluation; Crisis Management; Public Relations.

2.5.12.1. Public Affairs

Scope of action: current strategic consulting (including consultations with ministers/secreteraries of state before the inauguration of the Presidency and before the addresses in the commissions of the European Parliament; contributions to the addresses by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Poland and the Plenipotentiary to the European Parliament; consultancy concerning the commemoration of the anniversary of 11 September 2001, and granting the name of Solidarity to the esplanade in front of the European Parliament, numerous events in the European Parliament (including the theme-based breakfast named Breakfast Briefing, informal meetings of the Presidency with the MEPs entitled ‘Meet the Presidency’; the ‘Hello Poland!’ exhibition, and the conference on the Multiannual Financial Framework); reception for the participants of the EuropCom conference of the Committee of Regions; Presidency welcome cocktail for the Polish communities in Brussels; newsletters and electronic notifications about the forthcoming events of the Presidency for Polish people working in EU institutions (the so-called Polish Presidency Alert); a video entitled ‘Polish Presidency in the European Parliament’, preparation of the political roadmap of the Polish Presidency and listings of key stakeholders (stakeholder mapping).

23 A detailed summary of the cooperation and the descriptions of the individual projects can be found in the ‘Raport końcowy z kampanii PR/PA skierowanej do środowiska międzynarodowego w Bruksel w związku z objęciem przez Polskę przewodnictwa w Radzie UE’ [Final report from the public relations/public affairs campaign addressed to the international community in Brussels related to assumption of the Presidency of the EU Council by Poland].
2.5.12.2. Media Relations

Scope of actions: current strategic media consulting, including training for Presidency spokespeople and press attaches of Polish embassies; daily and weekly monitoring of European media and blogs; monthly analyses of communication gaps; monitoring and evaluation of events with the participation of representatives of the Presidency; building media contact lists before Presidency events concerning the environment and energy sector; preparation of the final report summarising the image of the Presidency in the European media; organisation of four media study visits to Poland (inauguration of the Presidency, Eastern Partnership, EU budget, cohesion policy); the shaping of the debate by publication of opinion forming editorials (Op-Eds) by the main representatives of the Presidency in key titles of the European press.

The table below presents an excerpt from the monthly communication gap analysis.

2.5.12.3. Coordination, planning, evaluation

Scope of actions: all the administrative and coordination actions aimed at ensuring streamlined progress of the campaign from its inception to its closure, including the preparation of the monthly and quarterly reports, and also action plans for the following month; preparation of a multimedia presentation.

2.5.12.4. Crisis Management

Scope of actions: drafting a crisis plan, including potential crisis scenarios; day-to-day consulting and support; practical training: simulation of a crisis situation for the Plenipotentiary and selected staff of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Permanent Representation of the Republic of Poland to the EU in Brussels.

2.5.12.5. Public Relations

Scope of action: production and distribution of two types of postcards for the Presidency: a welcome card with Polish words, and a farewell card addressed to the Members of the European Parliament.

Table 19. Excerpt from the monthly communication gap analysis
At the close of the Presidency, that is in December 2011, and in January and February 2012, on the commission of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs the agency developed a series of materials, measuring the results of the Presidency and also distributing information about them. These included:

- Highlights and Achievements: multimedia presentations in English, provided to the diplomatic missions and representatives of administration in shorter and longer versions;
- analysis of the questionnaires sent to the European Commission, Poles employed in European institutions, and the media in Brussels (more information about the results from the questionnaires is provided in point 4.1);
- the report about the image of the Presidency in the European media (more information concerning the results from the questionnaires is provided in point 4.2);
- report about the image of the Presidency in the Polish media (more information is provided in point 4.3);
- an information and training video with statements by the Plenipotentiary and other representatives of the Presidency (programming, coordination, logistics, media, protocol, the Permanent Representation of the Republic of Poland to the EU in Brussels).

The collaboration with the Burson-Marsteller agency, which was of a pioneering character for public administration on this scale, must unquestionably be evaluated positively. The precise strategic consulting of the agency’s experts, training in the areas of identifying deficits in the knowledge of representatives of the Presidency, access to an expanded network of media contacts, and also the relief from the organisational and technical burden were a significant added value, which reinforced the power of outreach of the most important communications of the Polish Presidency. The contacts established during the Presidency and the know-how gained will continue to bring profits in years to come.
Preparations and implementation of the Presidency programme
3.1. Programming preparations

3.1.1. Analytical preparations

Largely focused on programming efforts, substantive preparations for the Presidency formed an essential and extremely challenging task delivered by the Office of the Committee for European Integration and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs accountable for interdepartmental coordination of preparations.

Initially, the key part of programming preparations focused on analytical efforts which served as the basis for follow up, especially the development of programming documents (initial list of priorities, six and 18-month programme for the Poland-Denmark-Cyprus Trio). The goal of analytical efforts was to develop a methodology for programming preparations, and identify the EU agenda and the overall context for the Polish Presidency. These initiatives were particularly important as it was the first time that Poland assumed the presidency of the EU Council.

3.1.1.1. The CEPS study

At the very beginning of programming preparations for the Presidency, the Office of the Committee for European Integration (OCEI) commissioned the ‘Center for European Policy Studies’ to undertake a study entitled ‘Moving Europe Forward. Programming the Polish Presidency 2011’ authored by Piotr Maciej Kaczyński and Sebastian Kurpas, which focused on the Polish Presidency programming as well as identification of its priorities. Its first section was dedicated to the overall context of setting selection criteria for priorities, timeframes as well as cooperation with EU institutions and other stakeholders. The second section discussed specific political objectives to be embraced by the Polish Presidency. The study also contained a number of case studies pointing to reasons behind successes or failures of previous presidencies.

The study was widely used during presidency programming. It provided a variety of information about the criteria for the selection of priorities, proven models to be implemented by Poland and specific recommendations for areas to be prioritised by the Polish Presidency. Numerous topics covered by the study were later subject to in-depth analysis.

3.1.1.2. Study visits

During preparations for the Presidency of the EU Council, foreign study visits were organised to get an insight into the process of Presidency programming in other countries and capitalise on their experiences. Representatives of the Office of the Committee for European Integration and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs conducted study tours to Sweden (February 2010), Spain (November 2010) and Belgium (January 2011). They also took part in talks with representatives of the Czech Republic and the Kingdom of Denmark. All meetings put the spotlight on experiences of the above-mentioned states relevant to preparations and logistics of the presidency. Detailed discussions focused on such issues as the context of the presidency of the EU Council; political narration and the perception of the presidency as well as coordination of the presidency’s cooperation with EU institutions. Other important themes included the methodology of work on programming documents and coordination of European policy during the presidency as well as its internal aspects: reinforcement of commitment of the prime minister’s office in programming preparations; inter-departmental coordination of efforts before the launch of the presidency and during its term, also by appointment of a cross-departmental team for programming preparations. After each meeting official memos were drawn up which contained detailed information on the course of the discussion and conclusions for Poland.

Subject meetings produced extremely useful information regarding ‘presidency-centred activities’ and solutions applied by other countries. Later, all those issues became the subject of in-depth analysis conducted by the Office of the Committee for European Integration and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs which highlighted their practical application during the Polish Presidency.

3.1.1.3. Analytical efforts

Substantive preparations included analyses and analytical memos dedicated to various aspects of the presidency. Their development was driven by all available information which could have been useful in the context of preparations and the exercise of the presidency, especially conclusions from meetings with representatives of other states holding previous presidencies, information derived from various studies on the presidency of the EU Council regularly collated and analysed since 2008, an analysis of programming documents, conclusions from previous efforts. Analytical studies were mainly based on original reflections and evaluation of the above-mentioned sources to present insights and conclusions concerning a wide spectrum of vital issues in terms of programming and the exercise of the presidency, of both a substantive (recommended topics to be included in the programme of the presidency and their eligibility criteria), technical and logistic nature (the programming process).

Other analyses focused on programming documents of previous presidencies, which created grounds for the formulation of conclusions concerning the accuracy of priority selection, the likelihood of success, undertaking and execution of original initiatives, the impact of unforeseeable events (especially conflicts and crisis situations).
on the course of the presidency, progress in the execution of its agenda and slogan selection.

A good example is provided by a memo discussing the programming of presidency priorities and criteria applicable to their selection. Another one is a memo dedicated to the programming of Presidency priorities which presents criteria for priority selection, programming and execution phases, and the mechanism driving identification of the priorities of the Polish Presidency. The memo features an overview of the programming schedule, initial recommendations for priorities and key conclusions for follow-up. Analytical materials containing an assessment of areas covered by competencies of the Office of the Committee for European Integration (negotiations on the new financial perspective and the EU strategy for the Baltic Sea Region) in the perspective of the future Polish Presidency were enclosed to the memo.

3.1.1.4. Publications

In 2009, the Department of Analyses and Strategies published the OCEI Bulletin of Analyses entitled ‘Polish Presidency of the European Union – 2011’, which reflected the scope and outcomes of related efforts. The publication put the spotlight on a feature dedicated to changes introduced by the Lisbon Treaty to the EU Presidency system as well as the scope of competencies of the rotating presidency. Articles from the Bulletin focused on several aspects of programming preparations and selection of priorities: the context for the agenda to be embraced by programming efforts, an analysis of experiences of previous presidencies, and a detailed analysis of selected recommended themes for the Polish Presidency. The latter issues were supported by case studies highlighting such individual areas as migration, the financial perspective after 2013, the EU energy policy, the EU strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, the EU Eastern policy and the EU strategy for the perspective after 2013, the EU energy policy, the EU strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, the EU Eastern policy and the EU strategy for the perspective after 2013, the EU energy policy, the EU strategy for the the area of Freedom, Security and Justice. The Bulletin featured an overview of the programming schedule, initial recommendations for priorities and key conclusions for follow-up. Analytical materials containing an assessment of areas covered by competencies of the Office of the Committee for European Integration (negotiations on the new financial perspective and the EU strategy for the Baltic Sea Region) in the perspective of the future Polish Presidency were enclosed to the memo.

3.1.1.5. Cooperation with the Council of External Advisors

To optimise preparations for the presidency and embrace the internal perspective, the Council of External Advisors for Programming the Polish Presidency of the European Union Council was appointed in line with a decision of the Government Plenipotentiary for the Polish Presidency of 5 May 2009. Its line-up included representatives of European think tanks and universities: Laurent Cohen-Tanugi (Chairman of Europe and Globalisation Taskforce), Dieter Helm (an Oxford University professor), Paul Hofheinz (the President of the Lisbon Council), Alan Mayhew (a Sussex University professor), Jean Pisani-Ferry (the Director of Bruegel Institute), Gaëtane Ricard-Nihoul (the Secretary General of Notre Europe), Daniela Schwarzer (Head of Research Division at Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik) and Paweł Świeboda (President of DemošEUROPA).

The Council served as an opinion-making and advisory body to the Plenipotentiary, whereas its key objectives included revision of documents of the Plenipotentiary related to programming methodology and selection of priorities for the Polish Presidency, development of analyses concerning presidency programming as well as analytical and advisory reinforcement of activities of the Plenipotentiary in terms of Poland’s programming preparations for the presidency.

Cooperation with the Council of External Experts was also determined by the logic of Poland’s preparations for the Presidency of the European Union Council and was rolled out in two formats: regular meetings and discussions in Warsaw and written contributions of Council members on commissioned topics.

The main highlight of all meetings was the programming of priorities of the Polish Presidency in the context of the EU agenda and external conditions. Issues addressed during those meetings focused on such topics as the context of the Polish Presidency, mainly defined by the economic crisis, the European Union agenda for the years 2011-2012, economic and social aspects of the presidency, concepts for specific initiatives to be undertaken by Poland during the term of its leadership and the narration of the Polish Presidency. Another important talking point included consultations of the Council of External Advisors with representatives of the government administration regarding subsequent stages of priority programming – beginning with consultations focused on prospects for the Polish Presidency in the light of potential agenda for the years 2011-2012 held at the first meeting in May 2009, update on conditions and specific proposals for the Presidency at end-2010, and finally, consultations regarding the status

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1 The first meeting of the Council was held on 27-28 May 2009, the second one on 16 October 2009, the third one on 14 October 2010 and the final one on 8-9 June 2011.
of preparations for individual Polish Presidency priorities discussed during a meeting in June 2011.

Written statements (including studies and comments) penned by the Council of External Advisors on commission of the Department of Economic Policy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs marked an important addition and development on topics discussed during meetings. The above statements tackled selected themes of individual meetings and offered an insight into addressed areas. Putting the spotlight on programming priorities for the Polish Presidency, the above-mentioned advisory initiatives were the focal point of collaboration with the Council of External Experts, which produced essential guidelines in the context of presidency programming in Poland, the presidency agenda, and more importantly, its priorities.

3.1.2. The fiche system

3.1.2.1. The inventory of issues covered by the Polish Presidency agenda

One of the first stages of programming of the Polish Presidency was marked by development of the interdepartmental ‘Catalogue of policy issues which may appear on the agenda of the Polish Presidency in the second half of 2011’ (the so-called inventory). The Catalogue became one of the essential vehicles for programming and identification of priorities as well as the development of the framework programme for the Polish Presidency.

Efforts on the said document were initiated in 2009, i.e. two years before the launch of the Polish Presidency. All ministries and central administration bodies accountable for conducting working group efforts as well as logistics of meetings of individual Council formations in close cooperation with the Permanent Representative were engaged in the implementation of this objective. It was stressed at a very early stage that work in so-called cluster format (close cooperation of various ministries within the same council) is essential.

The Department of Analyses and Strategies of the Office of the Committee for European Integration (after merger of OCEI with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs this role was taken over by the Department of Economic Policy of the Ministry) was the coordinator of efforts and the entity accountable for consistency of the inventory process.

The inventory covered a review and an analysis of policy issues which could have been addressed by the agenda of the Polish Presidency. The process began with a review of policy issues in the context of all configurations of the EU Council and included an analysis of such documents, as multiannual strategic documents (strategies, programmes, white papers and green papers), revision clauses in Community legislative acts, conclusions of the EU Council and the European Council, reports from meetings of individual Council formations, Council expert groups, committees reinforcing EC efforts as well as documents of the European Parliament. In addition, the table embraced new issues which were vital from the perspective of the Polish Presidency.

The template of the table which guided the inventory-making as well as related guidelines were enclosed to the document entitled ‘Programming the Polish Presidency of the EU Council – operating aspects’.

Following intensive efforts of public administration bodies engaged in preparations, the first version of the catalogue was adopted by the European Committee of the Council of Ministers (ECCM) on 2 February 2009. The document covered 544 items. Having adopted the document, ECCM committed departments and central authorities to update the catalogue after announcement of the multiannual programme of the European Commission which was published on 31 March 2010. Catalogue update driven by the above-mentioned data was completed by relevant departments by the end of April 2010, which led to an increase in the number of items covered by the catalogue to approx. 720. Consecutive updated versions of the Catalogue were presented on the forum of the Committee for European Affairs since February 2011.

To accelerate efforts on the update of the Catalogue, a decision was taken to have inventory tables for particular Councils submitted individually for discussions of the Committee for European Affairs. After adoption of consecutive sections (reflecting efforts of Councils) by CEA, individual ministries were committed to undertake efforts on programming fiches. Ultimately, the fiche system was designed to cover all issues identified in the issue Catalogue (unless a given issue was withdrawn). The adoption of tables for particular Councils by CEA was not tantamount to completion of table-related efforts at ministries. Due to the dynamic nature of issues, all ministries were obliged to update tables within the area of their expertise. When a substantial number of additional issues emerged in the spring of 2011, CEA adopted an annex to the above Catalogue.

3.1.2.2. Building the programming fiche system

Programming fiches were designed on the basis of the ‘Catalogue of issues which may appear on the agenda of the Polish Presidency in the second half of 2011’, completed in spring 2011.
3.1. Programming preparations

Following interdepartmental consultations, an initial fiche template was approved in 2009 by the European Committee of the Council of Ministers as an annex to the document ‘Programming of Polish Presidency of the EU Council – operating aspects’. Each fiche presented a brief overview (the so-called data sheet) of a given issue plus information about its origins, legal context, efforts to-date and entities contributing to the decision-making process. In addition, fiches were updated on the basis of conducted analyses contained information about the negotiation strategy adopted by the Polish Presidency in relation to a given issue (including an overview of the prominence of a given issue for the Polish Presidency and Poland) as well as positions of other contributors to the decision-making process. Moreover, fiches also included an overview of essential activities to be taken in relation to European institutions, other Member States and internal activities on the Polish government level. In addition, the fiche template was supplemented with info about the minister, vice-minister, director and expert accountable for the subject area, including detailed contact information. During preparations for the Polish Presidency of the EU the template was modified and supplemented with fields vital for the Presidency. In July 2010, CEA adopted a document entitled ‘Programming of Polish Presidency of the EU Council – the fiche system: the concept and technical data’, which was the outcome of a compromise and collaboration of all ministries.

In reality, programming fiches being programming instruments deployed during the Presidency were completed approximately one month before the beginning of its term. Ready-to-use fiches were regularly reviewed and updated by respective ministries until the launch of the Presidency. In addition, all fiches were verified by the Department of Economic Policy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Department of the Committee for European Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Permanent Representative both in terms of their contents as well as technical aspects. During reviews and as the term of the Presidency approached, the nature of fiches began to evolve from purely informative to more operational and programming-oriented (negotiations-centred) one. It should be stressed that reviews contributed to the identification of the most frequent issues (formal, organisational and substantive) and a swift reaction to them.

In June 2011, all fiches were submitted to the Committee for European Affairs to obtain the negotiating mandate in relation to issues covered by the Polish Presidency agenda. Adoption of the mandate referred to the negotiating position defined in the section setting strategic objectives and deliverables of the Polish Presidency.

Its adoption by CEA meant that all ministries had to enter fiches into the specially designed on-line system. The fiche concept was inspired by the experiences of other Member States holding the presidency of the EU Council. In all cases, implementation of a similar system produced measurable benefits in terms of improved information flow, tightening of cross-departmental cooperation, enhanced coordination of efforts and reinforcement of the decision-making system in those states. Information about experiences gained by those countries was extremely practical, yet construction of the Polish fiche system had to reflect the specific profile and the context of the Polish administration. All activities related to construction of the system were thus pioneer initiatives as there was no ready-to-use solution to be transplanted. Moreover, the priority set for the Department of Analyses and Strategies of OCEI (later, the Department of Economic Policy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs) was to design an easy-to-use, economic system based on a platform which would guarantee its interoperability with the IT infrastructure of all public administration units defined as clients of the application. It should be stressed that no existing system met the above criteria as in most cases these were highly complex applications or systems driven by a specific technology commonly applied by administration bodies in a given state. The overall process related to system implementation which commenced with the decision confirming the need for its construction, through its concept design stage, consultations with ministries, tests and eventually the go-live phase, required thorough planning and the solving of numerous non-standard problems. All activities undertaken to design the fiche system called for enormous individual contribution, whereas the process was highly innovative since there were no ready-to-use solutions to be deployed.

Eventually, the concept of the system was adopted by CEA in July 2010. When the address of the system in the Internet was finalised, certification efforts were launched to assure its protection and safeguard of future data. It was essential to combine the system with the Presidency’s Extranet to optimally simplify operations on both platforms for the end user. After implementation of the final version of the system in early September 2010, accounts were allocated and distributed to users who were previously nominated by individual public administration bodies.

Users were introduced to the system in November 2010 when a pilot project to supplement fiches was launched. It contributed to the verification of adopted assumptions, introduced users to the fiche system, identified

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1 A frequent mistake involved the failure to consult the contents of a fiche with the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Poland to the European Union and other ministries being a part of the cluster, or incorrectly filled in fields (e.g. confusing the position of Poland with the stance of the Polish Presidency).

2 Study visits to Sweden, Spain and the Czech Republic as well as other states.
application errors and issues which could have been faced by future users. After completion of the pilot, all lessons learnt were implemented to optimally fine tune the system to expectations of its users. To improve its operations, the Department of Economic Policy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs delivered tutorial courses to demonstrate operations of the system. During this phase ministries were able to test the platform via the Internet.

The system eventually went live in late 2010, what was followed by regular update of fiches. From that time on, the objective of the Department of Economic Policy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was to substantively verify all imported fiches, administrate the system and react to problems as they emerge. The user database was continuously expanded, whereas the system was enhanced with new functionalities (e.g. new fields, improvements, etc.).

3.1.2.3. Fiche system support during the term of the Presidency

All operating, technical and legal aspects related to operations of the fiche system were regularly updated after the beginning of the term of the Polish Presidency. It should be stressed that on 1 July 2011, the Department of Economic Policy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs began to verify the progress in import of fiches adopted by CEA into the online system (https://fiszki.msz.gov.pl). Outcomes of verification were regularly reported to the Assistance Committee for the Polish Presidency of the European Union Council (the so-called ZWIAD), communicated by phone and email to individual departments of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other ministries. Reports contained information about the catalogue of breaches and guidelines for ministries. In addition to minor breaches, usually purely technical ones (e.g. the failure to enter titles of annexes to working group reports), initial months of the Presidency revealed more complex inaccuracies, usually concerning the failure to regularly update fiches. To address such issues, specific activities were undertaken to assure the compliance of ministries substantively accountable for respective fiches with pre-defined requirements. Appointment of ministerial coordinators serving as a uniform channel for fiche management (update)-centred communication of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with individual ministries proved to be an important tool facilitating coordination of the fiche system, what was particularly important considering the total number of programming fiches and accountable editors.

The discussed period witnessed development and implementation of new procedures assuring smooth operations of the said system. Instructions for enclosing initial or final reports from working groups, entering changes to fiches, creating and submitting new fiches to CEA as well as withdrawing fiches from the system were put together and later distributed to all users of the system and simultaneously published on-line. It should be stressed that publication of reports from working group meetings in the fiche system has largely contributed to an improvement in information flow across the public administration. It enabled all contributors to the decision-making system, mainly individual ministries, to swiftly and effectively access all key information relevant to a given issue and ensured consistency of undertaken efforts with the Polish Presidency agenda.

As a result of a large number of fiches, breakdowns and internal periodical analyses were drafted regularly to reflect changes in the fiche system triggered by advanced efforts of ministries during the presidency, what has consequently led to development of breakdowns illustrating the number of issues completed during the Presidency, the total number of issues on the agenda of the Polish Presidency, the number of new fiches (i.e. fiches not included in the inventory table) and withdrawn fiches (i.e. issues not addressed by the Presidency).

In addition to substantive supervision of the system, the Department of Economic Policy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs offered technical support to all system users. Its assistance was mainly focused on administration of system accounts, unlocking passwords, amendment of contact details, and introduction of new users. Most importantly, with constant supervision in place, all reported problems were solved on current basis. This assistance also covered extension of internal system glossaries or the mere process of entering or updating fiches. There were also cases when to address technical issues encountered by editors, employees of the Department of Economic Policy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs entered data into indicated fiches themselves. In addition, such monitoring contributed to introduction of developmental changes which adapted the system to specific needs emerging during its operations, for instance, publication of previously mentioned working group reports in the system.

From 1 December 2010 until 31 December 2011, editors and users logged into to the fiche system 11,807 times (12,528 logins to the on-line system altogether, including administrator logins). The system had 2,153 registered users - users and editors - since its launch and witnessed the highest traffic in July and September 2011. On average, there were 966 logins to the system per month in 2011. The table below depicts figures on the number of logins to the fiche system.
### 3.1. Programming preparations

Table 20. The number of logins into the fiche system

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Number of logins</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>December 2010</td>
<td>211</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 2011</td>
<td>278</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 2011</td>
<td>240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 2011</td>
<td>324</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 2011</td>
<td>528</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2011</td>
<td>511</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 2011</td>
<td>1,078</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 2011</td>
<td>1,842</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 2011</td>
<td>603</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 2011</td>
<td>1,762</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 2011</td>
<td>1,645</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 2011</td>
<td>1,259</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 2011</td>
<td>1,526</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>11,807</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
According to the Treaty of Lisbon, the trio has an important role to play in ensuring cohesion and continuity of EU activity. Reinforcement of collaboration during the 18-month work of the trio serves to ensure greater efficiency of activities (compared to a 6-month perspective) and strategic planning. The programmes of the trio are the presentation of facts and a snapshot of the EU Council activities likely to be conducted for the following 18 months. An additional benefit from the trio programmes is the collaboration between Member States, which provides a good lesson before assumption of the rotating presidency and positively influences the advancement of preparation work.

The main objective of the cooperation on matters of substance within the trio is the development of the 18-month programme. A further necessary element in the development of the programme is the collaboration with the President of the European Council and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy. Beginning its Presidency in July 2011, Poland was the first and largest state of the trio also comprising the Kingdom of Denmark and the Republic of Cyprus. The PL-DK-CY trio is the first to hold the Presidency based on the Treaty of Lisbon, which is why its task was to put into force some provisions of the Treaty, including deepening of cooperation in the fields of the Common Security and Defence Policy, energy policy and neighbourhood policy.

The Polish side began collaboration with Denmark and Cyprus within the trio as early as 2008. The collaboration was continued both at the level of the ministers of foreign affairs and sectoral ministers and directors of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as well as of other pertinent sectors. As a result of the closer collaboration, nine meetings were held at the level of trio coordinators. More extensive treatment of these meetings can be found in Chapter 1.5.1. ‘Co-operation with the Member States’.

Also held in Warsaw in July 2010 was a training seminar organised for the Polish representatives of the sectors concerning the practical aspects of writing the 18-month programme of the trio (and the 6-month programme of the Presidency) conducted by Jürgen Neisse of the General Secretariat of the EU Council.

During the successive meetings of the trio coordinators, the frameworks of mutual collaboration and preliminary timetables were drafted and the potential key challenges for the Poland – Denmark – Cyprus trio were analysed. Since embarking on the programme work for the trio too early would not have allowed accounting for all the matters that were to be tackled, the initial timetable for the works on the programme was amended during the meeting in Nicosia in April 2010. It was also decided that the programme of the trio, following the previous ones (FR-CZ-SE and ES-BE-HU), would be drafted in a division into strategic and operational parts, with the latter including priorities in individual sector councils.

Each state prepared a draft of its contribution to the 18-month programme individually and sent it to the General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union, so that the Secretariat could generate a single document. Poland submitted its contribution to its partners from the trio and the General Secretariat of the EU Council on 21 September 2010, Denmark on 17 September 2010 and Cyprus on 15 October 2010.

Later, in October, the General Secretariat of the EU Council submitted the proposal of the structure of the 18-month programme of the trio. The Polish party accepted it with minor comments (concerning among others the division of individual topics between individual councils) and Denmark and Cyprus did not raise any comments. In November, a meeting of the trio in Brussels (on 22 November 2010) was hosted by Poland. Besides the Danish and Cypriot partners, other participants were representatives of the General Secretariat of the EU Council. The meeting served as an in-depth discussion concerning the substance-related content of the 18-month programme (mostly discussion of the contribution to the strategic part of the programme) and its formal structure. It was decided that the General Secretariat of the EU Council would present the first draft of the submitted text in January 2011. The Secretariat delivered the first draft of the 18-month programme of the trio on 31 January 2011. It was written on the basis of the contributions sent by the three presidencies. The document did not contain any parts pertaining to trade and development or related to expansion; these were delivered at a later date. The Polish, Cypriot and Danish parties submitted their comments to the draft in writing. Moreover, the meeting in Brussels on 30 March 2011 was devoted to discussion of the individual clauses of the first draft.

A significant proportion of the comments were taken into account in the second draft of the 18-month programme, which was adopted by the Foreign Affairs Council with regard to that configuration’s activities during that period. The draft programme was then sent to the members of the Team for Preparation of the Presidency, and the submitted comments were taken into account in the text presented to the General Secretariat of the EU Council.

The first draft of the 18-month programme, complemented with issues related to Enlargement, Commercial Policy and Development, was delivered by the General Secretariat on 21 February 2011.

1 In line with Art. 2 of the Rules of procedure of the Council of the European Union: ‘Every 18 months, the pre-established group of three Member States holding the Presidency of the Council for that period, in accordance with Article 1(4), shall prepare a draft programme of Council activities for that period. The draft shall be prepared with the President of the Foreign Affairs Council with regard to that configuration’s activities during that period. The draft programme shall be prepared in close cooperation with the Commission and the President of the European Council, and after appropriate consultations. It shall be presented in a single document no later than one month before the relevant period, with a view to its endorsement by the General Affairs Council.’

2 The Polish contribution to the 18-month programme of the trio was first the object of interdepartmental work; later the document was sent to the members of the Team for Preparation of the Presidency, and the submitted comments were taken into account in the text presented to the General Secretariat of the EU Council.

3 The first draft of the 18-month programme, complemented with issues related to Enlargement, Commercial Policy and Development, was delivered by the General Secretariat on 21 February 2011.
3.2. Cooperation in the trio and the 18-month programme

which was sent to the states of the trio by the General Secretariat of the EU Council on 21 April 2011. All three presidencies also submitted their comments to this draft early in May 2011. On 17 May 2011, a technical meeting of the trio concerning the second draft of the 18-month programme of the trio took place. The part related to foreign matters was not discussed at that meeting, as at that time they had not yet been accepted by the EEAS. Political decisions were still required in the case of the clauses concerning questions of shipyards, related to expansion (Turkey) and, not least, questions of taxation. The last, decisive meeting of the coordinators of the presidencies concerning the clauses of the 18-month programme was held in Cyprus towards the end of May.

The presentation of the 18-month programme took place on 16 June 2010 at the forum of COREPER II and on 21 June 2011 the General Affairs Council (GAC) approved the 18-month programme without comments, thus endorsing the final wording of the document. The states of the trio believe that the document reflects both the challenges that the EU faces and the priority areas of all three presidencies. Moreover, it ensures the continuity of EU activity by exposing the activities for the future presidencies and provides good grounds for programming the actions of the EU Council.

Conscious of the fact that the decisions made during the Presidency of the Polish – Danish – Cypriot trio will de facto define the development of the European Union by 2020, the 18-month programme identified the following challenges:

» negotiations concerning the new multiannual financial frameworks which must be concluded by the end of 2012
» intelligent and sustainable economic growth (among others supporting a knowledge-based economy that uses natural resources efficiently, investments in research and innovation, education and training)
» demographic and society-related challenges as well as global changes, including degradation of the environment, climate changes, limited resources, pressure on biodiversity, international migrations and poverty
» in the field of justice and home affairs: implementation of the Stockholm programme, implementation of the European Pact on Immigration and Asylum
» democratisation in the neighbourhood of the EU, both Eastern and Southern, and also progress in the process of expansion, which is of key importance for Europe’s further development.

The tasks delineated above were implemented by the Polish Presidency in the second half of 2011 and will also be continued by the Danish Presidency (first half of 2012) and Cyprus Presidency (second half of 2012).
On 13 January 2009, the Council of Ministers approved the document entitled ‘Program przygotowania Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej do objęcia i sprawowania przewodnictwa w Radzie Unii Europejskiej’ [Programme of preparation of the Republic of Poland for for taking up and carrying out the Presidency of the EU Council]. Besides the legal and treaty analyses or logistic aspects, the document included a section concerning the discussion of Polish policy in the EU in the context of working out the priorities of the Polish Presidency. It analysed the mechanism of working out priorities, pointed to the need to conduct a debate concerning the Presidency, emphasised collaboration within the trio and described the assumptions of the parliamentary dimension in the context of the Presidency. The programme of preparation of the Republic of Poland document also pointed to the fact that ‘it is necessary to agree the mechanism of working out priorities by Poland, so that their first outline will be ready by 2009’.

Following on from this commitment, intensive work was initiated at the Office of the Committee for European Integration. This resulted in the creation of the document entitled ‘Priorytety i programowanie polskiej prezydencji w Unii Europejskiej w 2011’ [Priorities and programming of the Polish Presidency of the EU Council in 2011]. It pointed to the tasks and objectives of the Polish Presidency and an array of determining factors that the government of the Republic of Poland was to account for while working on the programming of the Presidency in defining priorities of the Polish Presidency and also outlined their potential directions.

Together with the approval of the document, entitled ‘Programowanie polskiej prezydencji w Radzie UE – aspekty operacyjne’ [Programming of the Polish Presidency of the EU Council – operational aspects] by the European Committee of the Council of Ministers on 21 July 2009 and after the discussion of the document entitled ‘Priorytety i programowanie polskiej prezydencji w Unii Europejskiej w 2011’, the process of preparation for the forming of the national Presidency’s 6-month programme and selection of priorities of the Polish Presidency of the EU Council was de facto initiated.

At the same time, in line with the decisions of the European Committee of the Council of Ministers of 21 July 2009, the sectors were obliged to prepare communications that would provide a synthetic summary of the analysis of the agenda and of the potential proposals of priorities for the Polish Presidency of the EU Council, along with their justification and with the consideration of the specificity of tasks and guidelines formulated in the Priorities and programming document approved by the European Committee of the Council of Ministers.

The document entitled ‘Programming of the Polish Presidency of the EU Council – Operational Aspects’ analyses the operational aspects of the Presidency programming, including:

» the stages of the work which must be completed to define the 6-month and 18-month programmes for the trio
» the system of instruments to support the individual stages of work (including the monitoring of the work advancement on legislative proposals, also in EU institutions, stocktaking of policy issues that would arise on the agenda during the Polish Presidency, the programme fiches)
» partners with whom collaboration would be necessary: primarily the General Secretariat of the EU Council, the European Commission, the European Parliament, Denmark and Cyprus (partners from the trio), Hungary in the capacity of the preceding Presidency (and the entire preceding trio) and the remaining Member States.

The operational document also contained a list of eight tasks to be performed, together with the naming of the entities responsible for their completion and the desired deadline for their execution.

The Priorities and programming of the Polish Presidency of the EU Council in 2011 put the main emphasis on the analysis of the determining factors that should be taken into account when programming the work of the Polish Presidency and the initial proposals of the areas that could provide the priorities of the Polish Presidency.

The factor considered most important in Poland’s tenure of the Presidency was the economic crisis. Even though it was difficult to foresee the scale of problems that the EU would be facing in the second half of 2011, it was forecast that the crisis would determine the European agenda and that countering its impact would be among the leading themes during the Polish Presidency. There was also a focus on the need to develop the strategy of overcoming its impact, supporting economic growth and working out efficient methods of reacting to similar crises in the future.

Another significant factor defined in the document as one determining the process of programming was the long-term EU agenda, namely EU projects whose implementation would take place during the Polish

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9 The programme of preparation of the Republic of Poland for the assumption and course of the Presidency in the EU Council was earlier (on 28 October 2008) approved by the European Committee of the Council of Ministers.

10 Formally accepted by the European Committee of the Council of Ministers on 22 September 2009 and later again on 16 October 2009, after being complemented by the section concerning the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP).
President due to the cyclical nature of certain processes. Primarily mentioned here were the negotiations of the New Financial Perspective 2014–2020 and those related to it, including the discussion of the shape of the Common Agricultural Policy and cohesion policy and a review of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP).

Another determining factor that the document envisaged significantly influencing the process of tenure of the Presidency was the Treaty of Lisbon’s coming into effect. Emphasised were not only its implications for the EU agenda, but also the changed manner of holding the Presidency and the new institutional environment: collaboration with the President of the European Council, limitation of competencies in the scope of foreign affairs, greater involvement in collaboration with the European Parliament as well as a new model of collaboration within the trio. Additionally, the document pointed to debates with a global scope (e.g. concerning global trade, climate change), events related to the dynamics of the process of integration and also the general political context (elections in many states of the European Union).

As part of identification of the priority areas of the Polish Presidency of the EU, it was postulated that two criteria be accounted for, namely, attractiveness (alignment of the Polish raisons d’être with simultaneous acquisition of support for them among other Member States) and the probability of attaining the goals assumed (avoiding choices that do not allow progress).

As proposals of priority areas that were for the first time formulated in a preliminary manner in the document mentioned above, the following questions were initially mentioned:

» internal markets: new ways for revival of economic growth after the crisis
» relations with the East
» EU energy policy / energy security
» negotiations of the new financial perspective.

Emphasised at the same time was their preliminary character, which is open to changes and the need to focus on such key notions as solidarity, competitive edge, cohesion, openness and community.

On 22 September 2009, the document entitled ‘Kryteria wyznaczania priorytetów sektorowych polskiego przewodnictwa w Radzie UE’ [Criteria for defining sector priorities in the Polish Presidency of the EU Council] was also approved by the European Committee of the Council of Ministers. It pointed to the specific determining factors that should be taken into account jointly while the sector was choosing the given issue for the sector’s priority of the Polish Presidency, including:

» the need to maintain the alignment of sector priorities with the general strategic priorities – based on the correlation of sector priorities with the flagships of the Polish Presidency and the areas identified as potential strategic priorities
» the requirement of alignment with the long-term interest of the country – that is accounting for national strategic documents which define the courses of action in a longer-term perspective
» the requirement of attractiveness of the priorities – understood as alignment with the general European interest and the possibility of acquiring support for the priorities among other countries
» probability of achieving the assumed objectives – analysis of the possibility of completing a given sector priority
» link to the EU work agenda as a favourable criterion (possible actions focus on entering the given sector priority on the agenda)
» specialisation – selection of subjects in which, thanks to its experience and knowledge, Poland aspires to a leadership role and can contribute and add value to European policy
» (additionally) a specific goal – definition of the desired result to be achieved during the 6 months of the Presidency.

The documents entitled ‘Priorities and programming of the Polish Presidency of the EU Council in 2011’ and ‘Criteria for defining sector priorities in the Polish Presidency of the EU Council’ were presented to the Council of Ministers on 27 of October 2009 and the council was provisionally familiarised with the documents.11

Later, from March to May 2010, the sectors presented draft proposals of priorities within the individual sector councils at the Committee for European Affairs, to which comments were submitted.12

On 2 July 2010, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs presented for the acceptance of the members of the Committee for European Affairs a document concerning the programme of the Polish Presidency (as of June 2010), that is the ‘Preliminary list of the Polish Presidency programme priorities in the second half of 2011’. The document was developed by the Interdepartmental Team for the Programming of the Presidency.

The Preliminary list of the Polish Presidency also contained a section concerning the possible determining factors of the Polish Presidency of the EU Council, from which, much like in the earlier document (Priorities and programming of the Polish Presidency of the EU Council in 2011), mostly the following were pointed to:

11 Additionally, the document entitled ‘Priorities and programming of the Polish Presidency of the EU Council in 2011’ was – after being complemented with the ESDP issues, which operated under the ‘restricted’ clause – repeatedly presented to the European Committee of the Council of Ministers, where it was accepted on 16 October 2009.
12 Proposals of priorities for the sectors were later included in the section concerning the sector councils in the Preliminary list of the Polish Presidency programme priorities.
the EU agenda, the role of the Presidency after the Treaty of Lisbon, the economic crisis and the global context.

The areas identified as preliminary priority directions, within which the priorities of the Polish Presidency would be fine-tuned, were a result of the work carried out until that point by the sectors. Moreover, they were discussed by the Council of Ministers in December 2009. The Preliminary list of the Polish Presidency pointed to:

» the internal market
» relations with the East
» reinforcement of the external energy policy of the EU
» Common Security and Defence Policy
» negotiations of Multiannual Financial Frameworks for 2014–2020
» maximum use of Europe’s intellectual capital.

Moreover, the Preliminary list of the Polish Presidency contained a section devoted to the priorities and programmes of sector councils, also in the context of the specific characteristics of these councils and the potential implications after the Treaty of Lisbon came into effect. Proposals of priorities for each of the 10 formations of the EU Council had earlier been the object of inter-sectoral debate in the forum of the Committee for European Affairs.

In line with the assumptions, the document did not have a final character, but was primarily a description of the advancement of work on the grounds of which the Committee for European Affairs and later the Council of Ministers issued sectoral political guidelines for further work. The Preliminary list of the Polish Presidency provided a foundation which was modified at a later stage in line with the changing conditions. After the approval of the Preliminary list of the Polish Presidency by the Committee for European Affairs on 2 July 2009, the document was submitted to the session of the Council of Ministers on 21 July 2010 and was accepted. At the same time, with the support for the proposed priorities, assumed directions and working methods, further activities of ministries and central institutions were recommended in line with the methodology approved in the groups corresponding to the formations of the EU Council.
3.4. The process of preparation of the 6-month programme

On 27 January 2011, members of the Committee for European Affairs received from the Plenipotentiary information about the timetable of work on the ‘Six-Month Programme of the Polish Presidency of the EU Council in the second half of 2011’. Also presented was the proposed structure of the Six-Month Programme of the Polish Presidency and guidelines for developing the individual chapters. In line with the proposed structure, the Six-Month Programme of the Polish Presidency was – much like the programmes of other presidencies – to be based on a strategic part (strategic priorities) and operational part (10 chapters concerning the 10 sector councils). Envisaged at the end of the document, in line with the structure, was an annex which was to contain a calendar of sessions of the Councils and ministerial meetings. The structure of the strategic part envisaged three priority areas, within which priorities were named:

- **The EU leaving the crisis**: achieved by the deepening of the internal market, ambitious EU budget (Multiannual Financial Framework 2014–2020) and comprehensive use of the EU’s intellectual capital
- **The EU and its external partners/ neighbourhood**, construed as a reinforcement of the Eastern Partnership and expansion of the EU
- **Safe Europe** – implemented through the Common Security and Defence Policy and external energy policy of the EU.

Sectors were obliged to deliver contributions to the Six-Month Programme of the Polish Presidency to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs by 14 February 2011. The materials submitted were later aggregated and consulted (verified) at the Department of Economic Policy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In addition, they were harmonised and updated. The first draft of the Six-Month Programme of the Polish Presidency was completed in February/March 2011. The document was to a great extent based on the structure proposed earlier; nevertheless, new priorities – primarily economic growth – took shape during the work, as a result of which its strategic part was focused on the following:

- **European integration as the source of growth** – that is mostly economic growth and also the deepening of the internal market pointed to earlier, negotiations of the Multiannual Financial Framework 2014–2020 and comprehensive use of the EU’s intellectual capital
- **Safe Europe** – that is energy security, defence capacity (Common Security and Defence Policy) and additionally strengthening economic management in the EU and food security
- **Open Europe** – additionally, besides the reinforcement of the Eastern Partnership and expansion of the EU, a new question arose: the **Southern Neighbourhood** and trade policy.

Besides the strategic section, the document contained – in line with the structure proposed – an operational part describing the individual sector priorities, which were to be implemented within the framework of the individual sector councils.

The document that was the first version of the ‘Six-Month Programme of the Polish Presidency of the EU Council in the second half of 2011’ was presented and approved by the Committee for European Affairs on 8th March 2011. After the introduction of comments and self-amendments submitted by the Committee for European Affairs, it was submitted for the consideration of the Council of Ministers, where it was granted operational acceptance (on 15 March 2011). The Six-Month Programme of the Polish Presidency was also one of the elements of the policy statement of the Minister of Foreign Affairs on 16 March 2011.

In March, April and May 2011, the further process of internal and external consultations of the documents and the priorities it contained continued mostly within the Interdepartmental Team for the Programming of the Presidency. It was at this time that the programme was for the first time translated (only into English). The changes proposed by the sectors were just updates with the latest information and additionally accounted for were a great majority of comments (frequently just stylistic) proposed by the European Commission and the General Secretariat of the EU Council.

Presentation of the second version of the document at the forum of the Committee for European Affairs took place on 17 May 2011 and after the inclusion of changes and comments submitted by the Committee for European Affairs it was presented again for the consideration of the Council of Ministers (31 May 2011), where it was approved. One of the most significant changes was the development of the second priority (Safe Europe) as: **Safe Europe: Food, Energy, Defence**.

Later, the priorities of the Polish Presidency were presented to the Sejm of the Republic of Poland (on 8 June 2011 at the session of the Committee for European Affairs of the Sejm and the Senate Committee on European Union Affairs)\(^{13}\). Later, on 28 June 2011, during the 95th session of the Sejm of the Republic of Poland, the ‘Government’s information on the priorities of the Polish Presidency of the European Union Council in the period 1 July – 31 December 2011’ was presented.

\(^{13}\) This model of the structure of the Presidency programme was used earlier by the Hungarian, Belgian, Spanish, Swedish and Czech presidencies.
Given the nature of holding the Presidency in the second half of the year and faced with the fact that the results of the EU Council in June (and the work of Hungarian Presidency) could also influence the shape of the following Presidency, from the beginning the timetable made allowances for the need to account for them in the programme. In June 2011, after the presentations of the draft of conclusions of the EU Council, the sectors were obliged to submit information concerning what changes must be included in the Programme. These changes were represented in the annex approved by the Committee for European Affairs on 21 June 2011 – ‘Zmiany do Programu 6-miesięcznego polskiej prezydencji w Radzie UE w II połowie 2011 (w stosunku do dokumentu przyjętego przez Radę Ministrów w dniu 31.05.2011)’ ['Changes to the Six-month programme of the Polish Presidency of the EU Council in the second half of 2011' (compared to the document adopted by the Council of Ministers on 31 May 2011)]. The remaining conclusions from the European Council (23-24 June 2011) were introduced in the ‘Six-Month Programme of the Polish Presidency of the EU Council in the second half of 2011’ document, which at that time had already been delivered for typesetting and printing. Analogous changes were introduced in all four electronic language versions.

Finally, the electronic version of the document entitled ‘Program polskiej prezydencji w Radzie Unii Europejskiej’ (‘Programme of the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union’ in Polish and English version) was made available on the website of the Presidency on 1 July 2011 and soon afterwards also in the two remaining language versions (German on 19 July 2011 and French on 21 July 2011).

Beginning in mid-July 2011, over 2000 copies of the publication entitled ‘Programme of the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union’ were distributed at the most important meetings during the Polish Presidency.

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15 There were important decisions made at the session held on 23-24 June 2011. They concerned economic policy, migration, relations with the countries of North Africa and the Croatian accession to the EU. The Belgian Presidency followed a similar course, because of the Council of the European Union held in June and potential changes in the programme. Therefore, the Belgian Presidency developed its programme in the form of an internal document and slight amendments were introduced after the Council of the European Union.
3.5. Implementation of the programme

Implementation of the programme of the Polish Presidency continued efficiently and effectively. Despite the financial crisis which clearly dominated the EU agenda causing a shift in the emphasis in the debate on the future of the EU, Poland achieved most of the stated objectives.

These goals were included in the Programme of the Polish Presidency. In the strategic dimension, the ambitions of the Presidency focused on three priorities. First, there was the effort for greater integration, investment in Europe and favouring of economic growth. Secondly, the Presidency set itself the goal of developing security understood in multidimensional terms: as energy, internal and food security and reinforcement of the Common Security and Defence Policy. The third strategic priority was the effort to secure stable and transparent relations with neighbours, openness to others and the closing of collaboration.

This part presents specific actions taken to carry out these priorities. Sheer numbers point to the efficiency of the work of the Polish Presidency. In the second half of 2011, 48 conclusions and resolutions and 54 acts of law were approved and in 64 issues major progress was achieved, allowing the work to reach significant milestones. Moreover, following the implementation of the programme of the Polish Presidency, several declarations, reports and statements approved at the EU Council were established.

3.5.1. The legislative process and other elements of implementing the programme

The Polish Presidency found a particular affinity with the idea of ‘more Europe’, a community approach and the integrity of the EU. The goals defined were not only ambitious but also based on an approach in which the European interest took the upper hand over the national point of view.

Carrying out these goals occurred in an exceptionally difficult period for the EU. The crisis focused the general European debate on the problem of debt in the Eurozone, frequently shifting numerous other issues further on. For that reason, the activity of Poland was to a significant extent conditioned by the situation in global markets and the turbulences over the common European currency. Despite these, the Polish Presidency undertook actions going beyond the perspective of the crisis, carrying out the approved priorities and strategic goals.

The Polish Presidency carried a powerful message: Europe acts jointly. Based on the assumption that the most efficient form of fighting a crisis is the support of actions furthering growth, the Polish Presidency paid special attention to this aspect, as a necessary element of anti-crisis strategy. Using the Presidency report as the foundation, the political debate on economic growth was initiated; its goal was the establishment of a pan-European consensus for implementation of initiatives favouring growth.

As a result of the activities of Polish diplomacy, the conclusions of the June EU Council summoned the European Commission to report in October 2011 on the areas favouring growth. That step made it possible for the Presidency to conduct a discussion concerning the necessary initiatives stimulating growth, whose conclusions, included in the approved motions, provided a powerful political impulse for the implementation of these initiatives.

On 6 October 2011, the Polish Presidency together with the European Commission organised a political conference concerning the sources of growth in Europe. The grounds for the discussion were provided by the Presidency report entitled ‘Towards a European consensus on growth’ and the preliminary reports of the World Bank concerning the European model of growth: ‘Golden Growth. Restoring the lustre of the European economic model’.

The debate initiated by the conference encouraged great involvement from the European Commission and preparation of the report in writing. As a result, the European Commission published a communication entitled ‘A roadmap for stability and growth’, presented by the President of the European Commission to the European Parliament on 12 October 2011.

Later, the conclusions from the conference and recommendations of the report of the Presidency were presented for discussion during the session of the General Affairs Council (11 October 2011) and also during the mini-session of the European Parliament (13 October 2011). The General Affairs Council worked out an initial consensus concerning including a reference to the conference and the range of the initiative proposed by the Presidency in the report in the conclusions of the EU Council.

In line with the intentions of the Polish Presidency, the October EU Council (23 October 2011) produced the final agreement concerning economic growth. In the conclusions, reference was made to the results of the political conference concerning the sources of economic growth in Europe. Moreover, confirmation was given for the significance of encouraging growth in the anti-crisis strategy and the ambitious text of the conclusion calling for priority significance to be awarded to the implementation of selected initiatives identified by the Polish Presidency (including the implementation of initiatives as part of the Single Market Act, full implementation of the services directive, building of the digital market by 2015 and a decrease in administrative burdens, especially for small and medium-sized enterprises).
The Presidency tried in its activities to go beyond the perception of the crisis. An overarching intention of the Presidency was the long-term vision of a powerful, effective, ambitious and prosperous Europe.

 Begun during the Polish Presidency were the negotiations over the Multiannual Financial Framework of the EU for 2014–2020 (MFF). The Presidency completed the first stage of these negotiations, i.e. the explanation phase. The goals of the Presidency were:

» a detailed discussion of the proposal from the European Commission
» establishing an opportunity for articulation of interests of all the Member States
» an insight into all the negotiation issues.

All the assumed goals were completed, as reflected in the report on the Presidency concerning the progress in negotiating the financial framework. In the report, the Presidency identified issues whose negotiations would have to begin by the following Danish Presidency. The report of the Presidency, taken down in the conclusion of the December EU Council, will therefore allow a compromise to be sought in the Council in the matter of the Multiannual Financial Framework in the first half of 2012. Moreover, by objectively portraying the orientation debates conducted in the Council, the report points to the fact that cohesion policy gained the comprehensive support of many Member States.

During the debates in the Council conducted by the Polish Presidency, two groups of Member States with colliding demands emerged. On the one hand, the eight net payer states presented a joint list concerning curtailing of the EU budget and on the other, 13 states presented a joint approach to the cohesion policy, supporting a powerful and properly financed cohesion policy.

The Polish Presidency ensured integrity of the process of negotiating financial frameworks – questions of a financial nature are discussed at the General Affairs Council.

Based on the assumption that the debate about the financial framework is in fact that about the shape of the Union and its policies for the successive years, the Presidency opened a discussion about the financial frameworks for all the interested parties. A high-level political conference concerning the future of the EU budget, organised by the Polish Presidency, the European Commission and the European Parliament gathered representatives of national parliaments, governments, EU institutions and civil society institutions. The success of the conference was corroborated by the decision of the future Danish Presidency, which expressed the will to organise a similar event in the coming half year. The Polish Presidency, carrying out the obligations of the preceding Hungarian Presidency and those resulting from the treaties, also involved the European Parliament in the work on the Multiannual Financial Framework.

Despite the efforts of the net payers to define top-down the volume of the financial framework, the Member States considered the proposal prepared by the Commission solid grounds for further negotiations. Favourably for Poland, the proposal of the Commission – even though criticised by some states – was not rejected a priori, as it happened during the previous negotiations.

Making reference to 2012 marking the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Single Market in the European Union and also to the important legislative initiatives of the European Commission, the Polish Presidency made embarking on specific actions for the benefit of the actual completion of the construction of the single market one of its main goals. An efficiently operating single market is a key instrument for the reinforcement of economic growth, which is especially significant in the long-term, anti-crisis actions of the EU.

The main event concerning the promotion of the single market of the European Union during the Polish Presidency was the joint organisation of the Single Market Forum (SIMFO, Cracow, 2-4 October 2011) by the European Commission, European Parliament and Presidency. The Forum gathered approximately 1200 people: politicians, entrepreneurs, employers and representatives of trade unions and non-governmental organisations. The anticipated and achieved goal of the SIMFO was to increase the awareness of entrepreneurs and citizens about the benefits that result from the four freedoms of the single market and are available for them and also the involvement of participants in the single market in its further development. The discussion continued both during the eighth parallel thematic workshops and also during the Single Market Fair, where for three days citizens (more than 10,000 people were interested) could obtain information concerning the competencies of individual EU institutions and information and consulting networks supporting the operation of the single market. SIMFO participants jointly created the 'Krakow Statement', which provided the grounds for the conclusions of the Council concerning SIMFO results approved at the session of the Council on Competitiveness (COMPET) on 5 December 2011.

In the legislative dimension, the Polish Presidency supported the initiatives and actions of the Commission concerning the internal market and conducting work on seven initiatives as part of the Single Market Act. Due to the failure of the European Commission to present a statement concerning e-commerce in the second half of 2011, the plans connected with the development of the electronic services market in the EU could not be successfully completed.

In turn, in line with the assumptions, the Polish Presidency initiated a discussion of potential activities...
aimed at facilitation of conducting trans-border sales contracts.

From the very beginning of the Polish Presidency, much attention was devoted to industrial policy. On 29 September 2011, the conclusions of the Council concerning the competitive European economy were approved and earlier – on 21-22 July – an informal session of the EU Council on Competitiveness, an introductory debate for the formal talks, was held. Besides the subject of efficient use of resources, the debate also touched upon more general questions of the influence of regulations concerning environmental protection on industry. The discussion proved a far-reaching consensus concerning the fact that the balance between industry and environmental action is important, so that the factors related to climate policy did not rule out the competitive edge of industry, especially in the face of numerous global challenges, primarily including growth in competition from sunrise economies. This found its reflection in the text of the conclusion of the Council, much like the idea of researching the influence of major initiatives on competitive edge (competitiveness proofing). The Presidency also emphasised on other occasions – with great support from other Member States – how significant the checking of the influence of every legislative initiative on the competitive edge of the EU is, whenever it is possible that such an influence could occur, even indirectly.

With the support of European entrepreneurs in mind, the Presidency conducted work on the conclusions of the EU Council concerning the flagship initiative in industry policy, namely the strengthening of implementation of industrial policy in the EU. The conclusions identified priority actions in industrial policy aimed at improving EU competitiveness and also the course of actions in supporting small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in using opportunities in global markets (as an answer among others to the proposals of the European Commission pointed to in a communication concerning the internationalisation of the SMEs). The conclusions envisage solutions including a mapping exercise of SME support instruments in global markets to identify potential gaps in the system and/or redundancies of activities. The conclusions were approved at the session of the EU Council on Competitiveness on 5 December 2011. Moreover, the Presidency participated actively in the initiatives of the European Commission concerning the facilitation of access to capital markets and venture capital, also support of SMEs in the markets of non-EU states, among others by supporting a range of events including SME Week (7 October 2011) and the SME Finance Forum (18 October 2011).

One of the key priorities of the Presidency in the area of the internal market was the completion of work on the system of uniform patent protection, continuing for 30 years and composed of: a regulation concerning the establishment of a uniform system of patent protection; a regulation in the field of establishing a single system of patent protection in reference to language solutions; and a draft international agreement concerning the establishment of the Single Patent Court. A success of the Polish Presidency is the achievement of an understanding between the European Parliament and the Council and the conclusion of negotiations that were part of the first reading in the reference to the drafts of patent regulations. Moreover, the Presidency greatly advanced the negotiations of the draft act on the Single Patent Court. After the session of the EU Council on Competitiveness on 5 December 2011, only an issue of political nature – the location of the Central Headquarters of the Court – remained to be agreed.

The main achievements of the Polish Presidency in the scope of the opening of the European market to trade contacts with external partners were the actions aimed at the normalisation of economic and trade relations in the EU’s immediate vicinity, including those within the Neighbourhood Policy, in both its Eastern and Southern dimensions.

Realising the maximum use of the intellectual capital of Europe priority was an example of a long-term activity undertaken with joint European interests in mind. This was related to embarking on and conducting an in-depth debate concerning the role of intellectual capital, among others in the context of global challenges and the global financial crisis and the economic slowdown in the forum of the European Union. The frameworks of the debate were defined by the recommendations of the EU Council from February 2011, which called for a strategic implementation and an integrated approach used to stimulate innovation and maximum use of the intellectual capital of Europe with benefit for citizens, businesses – especially small and medium-sized enterprises and scientists. Actions for the reinforcement of the cohesion and synergy between the politics and initiatives of the European Union that will favour the complete use of the intellectual capital of Europe were discussed during the work concerning the functioning of partnerships for research and innovation (designing and approval of the conclusions of the EU Council on Competitiveness concerning partnerships for research and innovation), modernisation of higher education institutions (designing and approval of conclusions of the EU Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council concerning modernisation of higher education), cultural and creative competencies (designing and approval of conclusions of the EU Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council concerning the cultural and creative competencies in the construction of the intellectual capital of Europe).
Maximum use of the intellectual capital of Europe was also the subject of the ministerial conference of the European Research Area on ‘Intellectual Capital – Creative Impact’, held in Sopot on 20 July 2011. Conclusions from the discussion were presented at a conference organised by the European Commission and entitled ‘Innovation Convention’, held on 5-6 December 2011 and devoted to the implementation of the Innovation Union leading initiative. Numerous conferences organised by the Polish Presidency also tackled the subject of intellectual capital, including the ‘3rd European Innovation Summit: Towards a European Innovation Ecosystem: R&I strategies tailored to national and regional context’ (10-12 October 2011, Warsaw and Brussels), ‘The European integration process in the new regional and global settings’ (19-20 October 2011), ‘Corporate governance. Perennial Issues? New ideas’ (14-16 November 2011, Warsaw), ‘The European Forum on Forward Looking Activities’ (17 November 2011, Warsaw), ‘Knowledge transfer from universities and public research organisations in Poland – contribution to the smart growth’ (3 November 2011, Warsaw).

**Strengthening economic management in the EU** was the main priority of the Polish Presidency in the area of economy and finance. This premise was suggested by the fact that the implementation of a strategic EU goal, namely the building of economic growth, is impossible without ensuring security and stability of public finance.

The process of shaping a new system of economic management in the EU, initiated by the previous presidencies, is a phenomenon that is both dynamic and complex. Its first important stage and at the same time a major success of the Polish Presidency of the EU Council, was the approval of the so-called ‘six-pack’, that is the package of six acts of law (five regulations and a directive) strengthening the coordination of economic policies in the EU, especially in the Eurozone states. It came into force on 13 December 2011. Four of the six ideas concerned public finance and, among others, reformed both the preventive and the corrective parts of the Stability and Growth Pact.

As a result of the aggravation of the debt crisis, further reforms of economic management were embarked on. Work began on the so-called ‘two-pack’ (a draft of two resolutions presented by the European Commission on 30 November 2011), which additionally reinforces the supervision of the budgetary policy of Eurozone Member States and supervision over the economic and budgetary policies of the Eurozone states that are economically unstable, or which are threatened with such an instability.

The EU Council held in October agreed on the need to reinforce the economic convergence within the Eurozone, further reinforcement of fiscal discipline and deepening of the economic union, which provided a forecast of work on the fiscal compact. At the same time, the need to guarantee integrity of the European Union as a whole was emphasised. In response, the Polish Presidency put forth a political initiative aimed at ensuring a coherent and inclusive character of the emerging structure of economic management. Developed was the ‘non-paper’ entitled Preserving Integrity of the European Union, which emphasised the necessity to maintain transparency and inclusiveness of decision-making processes within the Eurozone and presented specific procedure-related solutions. The Presidency’s ‘non-paper’ was the subject of discussion during the General Affairs Council (5 December 2011). The initiative was successful. The agreements of the leaders of the Eurozone made on 9 December 2011 envisaged that the President of the European Council and the President of the European Commission would generate a report concerning the relationships between the Eurozone and the EU, which would accompany a report on the furthering of fiscal integration. As a result of further work, preparation of the said report was abandoned and instead the contents of the Treaty on Stability, Coordination and Governance in EMU were agreed. This was signed on 2 March 2012 by 25 Member States of the EU. The subject of the relationship between the EU and the Eurozone will be continued throughout the Danish Presidency.

Intending to increase stabilisation and a sense of security, the Polish Presidency undertook to conduct work concerning the strengthening of energy security.

Actions in the area of energy policy, especially in its external dimension, accounted for one of the programme priorities of the Polish Presidency, as – in the face of the current economic crisis – ensuring stable sources of cheap energy is a significant source of growth and an element of building the EU’s competitive edge in the world. The Polish Presidency achieved its set objective, namely, forming and gaining approval for a conclusion concerning the reinforcement of the external dimension of energy policy from ministers for energy. The grounds for the draft conclusion was the Communication on Security of Energy Supply and International Cooperation – ‘The EU Energy Policy: Engaging with Partners beyond Our Borders’, published by the European Commission on 7 September 2011. An important contribution to the preparation of the conclusions of the Council was the preliminary discussion of EU states concerning the external dimension of energy policy of the EU, organised by the Polish Presidency at an informal session of energy ministers in Wroclaw on 19-20 September 2011. The conclusions were approved at the first session of the Energy Council on 24 November 2011. They emphasised that the external energy policy of the EU should be based on the principles of solidarity, transparency, collaboration and coordination of activities of the EU and its Member States. Moreover, it should contribute to the assurance of secure, safe, lasting and affordable energy. The conclusions included the following...
priorities of actions for consolidation of the external energy policy:

» strengthening of coordination of the external dimension of energy policy, among others, by the greater involvement of formal and informal meetings of ministers for energy into the external dimension of energy policy, synchronisation of work of various bodies of the Council and the involvement of the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, coordination of the EU position in international forums, including MAE, IRENA, the Energy Charter Treaty and Energy Community, G8 and G20

» strengthening of collaboration between EU and non-EU states, based on the internal energy market, by strengthening and expansion of the Energy Community, strengthening of the Energy Charter Treaty, development of energy infrastructure for the benefit of diversification of suppliers, supply pathways and energy sources for the EU

» deepening energy partnerships (defining a coherent catalogue of principles for their formation), especially with Russia, the US and Japan; coordination of EU actions towards China, India, Brazil and South Africa to promote secure, sustainable and climate-friendly energy policy

» support for developing countries, especially in Africa, as part of the EU development policy, including promotion of renewable energy and energy efficiency for reducing poverty.

The conclusions listed above were approved later by the Heads of States or Governments in the conclusions of the European Council of 9 December 2011, which made it possible to provide the conclusions with a strategic dimension. The approval of the conclusion also gives an important political impulse in the implementation of the guidelines contained in the conclusions of the European Council of 4 February 2011 and the EU Energy Strategy approved by the Council for 2011–2020. At the same time, by the approval of these conclusions, the Polish Presidency – in keeping with its ambitions – provided a specific contribution to the definition of external EU energy policy and crowned the efforts undertaken by Poland before the Presidency.

Together with the presentation of the Communication on Security of Energy Supply and International Cooperation mentioned above, the European Commission also presented a draft decision of the European Parliament and Council establishing a mechanism for exchanging information and reference to international agreements in the field of energy between Member States and non-EU states. The proposal of the European Commission introduces among others the procedure of ex ante evaluation of contract drafts from the point of view of their cohesion with EU law. The draft decision is coherent with the priority of the Polish Presidency, as it provides a significant element in operationalising the guidelines included in the approved conclusions and reinforces the position of individual Member States and the EU as a whole in the international dialogue on energy. The Polish Presidency conducted an intensive discussion at the working level, creating an advanced new version of the document which was passed to the Danish Presidency for further work.

Besides the agreement on the guidelines included in the general conclusions and concerning the strengthening of the external dimension of energy policy, the Polish Presidency also brought about the formal approval of the mandate for the European Commission to negotiate a contract with Turkmenistan and Azerbaijan concerning the legal framework for the construction of the Trans-Caspian gas pipeline (12 September 2011). The negotiations conducted by the European Commission are to prepare political and legal frameworks to facilitate the construction of the Trans-Caspian gas pipeline connecting Azerbaijan with Turkmenistan, which – combined with the implementation of the Southern Corridor projects – will allow imports of Caspian gas to the EU. Following the conclusions of the EU Council of 4 February 2011, the Southern Corridor is a priority corridor for importing large volumes of gas to the EU, as it is to provide Europe with diversification of sources of supplies (besides the Norwegian, Russian and Algerian sources).

The Safe Europe: Food, Energy, Defence strategic priority was also established to emphasise the importance that the Polish Presidency considered food security and agricultural policy to hold for the citizens of Europe. The priority came about as an answer to the forecast increase in the global population, to emphasise the need for sustainable growth of production capacities of Europe, which should be ensured by the reformed Common Agricultural Policy.

The Polish Presidency made a significant contribution to building the reformed Common Agricultural Policy, which should provide food security, continue market orientation and account for the public good and multifunctional development of rural areas. The actions conducted during the Polish Presidency emphasised in a special manner the significance of good solutions concerning the direct payments and support of development of rural areas and also agricultural produce quality policy. The Presidency began intensive work on legislative projects of the Commission concerning the Common Agricultural Policy by 2020. Despite the late publication of the drafts by the European Commission, the Presidency made progress in work at both the political and the institutional level as well as and in the area of technical analysis. This progress in the work on the projects achieved should make it possible for the subsequent
countries of the trio to conduct the process of working out the position of the Council and continuation of the dialogue with the European Parliament efficiently.

The overarching goal of the Polish Presidency in the scope of the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) was the improvement of efficiency of this policy and reinforcement of the image of Poland as a state involved in its development. Moreover, the Presidency aimed to define a new, active role of the Polish Presidency in the post-Lisbon institutional architecture.

The specific character of the CSDP required that work had been launched many months before the Polish Presidency. The key element of the preparations was the joint letter of ministers of foreign affairs and defence of the Weimar Triangle states to High Representative Catherine Ashton, delivered on 6 December 2010. Despite certain delays in the work at the beginning of the Polish Presidency (lack of agreement on the FAC conclusion), the deadlock was successfully resolved and the strong support of partners, including Italy and Spain, was obtained.

The Polish Presidency undertook efforts for reinforcement of the EU military capacity and especially improving the usefulness of the EU Battle Groups, development of the initiative for pooling and sharing defence capacities and streamlining the structure of planning EU operations. As a result, the EEAS was obliged in 2012 to develop concrete proposals of actions and reinforcing the use of the EU Battle Groups; the Declaration of the Council concerning the joint financing of strategic transport of the Battle Groups in 2012–2013 was also approved. Moreover, the Council approved a catalogue of 11 pooling and sharing projects and decided to activate the Operations Centre for the needs of CSDP in the Horn of Africa.

The Presidency undertook actions for the strengthening of CSDP civilian capacity, especially in reference to the implementation of two Civilian Headline Goals and collaboration between the external and internal area of security of the European Union (the so-called relations between the CSDP and the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice (AFSJ) as an element of a broader effort for promotion of synergy between the internal and external dimensions of security).

The Presidency undertook efforts serving the reinforcement of collaboration between the EU and its partners. It initiated a discussion concerning the strengthening of practical collaboration between the EU and the Eastern Partners, proposing specific solutions. Moreover, it supported the High Representative in the reinforcement of the dialogue between the EU and NATO.

The crowning of the efforts of the Presidency was the approval of the December conclusions of the Foreign Affairs Council (FAC) concerning CSDP and referring to all Polish proposals, namely:

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- confirmation of the usefulness of the Battle Groups and recognition of the need for joint financing of strategic transport
- approval of the obligation to conduct multinational pooling and sharing projects by Member States
- confirmation of the political significance of the close collaboration between EU and NATO and collaboration between the EU and Eastern Partners (for the first time in a document of the status of a Council conclusion). The Polish Presidency was motivated by the idea of an open Europe. The starting point was the assumption that the involvement of Member States in the foreign policy of the EU and capacity of the Union to promote its values and interests in the world efficiently should reflect the scale of global challenges for Europe and the political vision which provided the grounds for the integration of the continent.

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Carried out during the Polish Presidency was a new, strengthened EU offer for the neighbourhood, both in Eastern Europe and in the Southern dimension. The development of the European Neighbourhood Policy was one of the important goals of the Polish Presidency as part of the ‘Europe benefiting from openness’ priority. The actions of the Polish Presidency in this field followed three major courses:

1) implementation of the agreements from the review of the European Neighbourhood Policy made in 2010–2011, including the financial realm
2) reinforcement of the Eastern Partnership
3) development of relations between the European Union and the Southern Neighbourhood region, following the events of the Arab Spring.

Initiated during the Polish Presidency was the preliminary discussion concerning the financing of the Neighbourhood Policy in the period 2014–2020, together with the publication of a draft regulation on the establishment of the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) by the European Commission.

As part of the ‘Europe benefiting from openness’ priority, the Polish Presidency significantly contributed to the development of collaboration with EU’s eastern neighbours by intensive activities within the scope of the Eastern Partnership policy. The 2nd Summit of the Eastern Partnership (29-30 September 2011) in Warsaw at the level of heads of state and government was the most important event in the area of external affairs of the European Union during the Polish Presidency. It served to conclude the actions conducted so far and offer a definition of the new ambitious goals concerning the subsequent stages of political association and
economic integration of partner countries with the EU and adjustment of partner states to EU standards. It was one of the most visible events of the Polish Presidency, by showing its organisational efficiency and primarily by serving the achievement of progress in the area of EU relations with the states of Eastern Europe, a significant one for Poland.

The Joint Declaration approved at the Summit, which provides a political signal concerning further deepening of integration of partner states with the EU, contains ambitious clauses concerning: founding the Partnership on shared values and recognition of the European aspirations of partner states; an announcement of full integration economic area; confirmation of the intention to establish a visa-free regime and also deepening of sector collaboration. The Declaration also included an announcement of EU programmes being opened to citizens from partner states. According to the decisions made in the Declaration of the Warsaw Summit of the Eastern Partnership, negotiations on Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA) agreements with Georgia and Moldova were inaugurated and the negotiations of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement, covering DCFTA, were concluded. Similarly, the efforts of the Presidency to establish the Eastern Partnership Business Forum (with the founding meeting taking place in Sopot on 30 September 2011) ended in success. Moreover, the Presidency supported the organisation of the 3rd Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum (28-30 November 2011) in Poznań, which was also the site of the inaugural session of the Conference of the Regional and Local Authorities for the Eastern Partnership and the EU (CORLEAP, 8 September 2011). Held during the Polish Presidency was the first formal session of the EURONEST Parliamentary Assembly (EU/Eastern Partnership inter-parliamentary forum). Moreover, following an initiative of the European Commission, organised in collaboration with the Polish Presidency (Ministry of National Education, Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, Ministry of Science and Higher Education and Ministry of Sport and Tourism) was a conference entitled ‘Eastern Dimension of Mobility’ (Warsaw, 6-7 July 2011). The conference provided a significant contribution to the European Neighbourhood Policy, especially by emphasising the significance of the Eastern Partnership. Special attention was paid to the mobility of students, teachers, academics, young people and businesses from the sporting and cultural sectors. A participant in the conference was Ms Androulla Vassiliou, EU Commissioner for Education, Culture, Multilingualism, Sport, Media and Youth. In the conclusions approved, participants appealed, among others, for the strengthening of participation of entities from partnership countries in the current and future programmes of the European Union.

Aiming at deepening the sectoral collaboration of the Eastern Partnership, the Presidency organised a range of meetings at ministerial level, of higher officers and experts, including a conference of ministers of economy, transport and agriculture of the Eastern Partnership; a debate of the ministers of higher education of the Eastern Partnership, a conference for the heads of customs services of the Eastern Partnership, a meeting of the heads of statistical services of the Eastern Partnership and expert conferences in the area of migration, combating crime related to drugs and human trafficking, collaboration on climate (including a two-day workshop on climate for the states of the Eastern Partnership), fighting corruption; energy, security, education; and culture, customs and industrial property. Currently, the European Commission is working on the further development of sectoral collaboration on the grounds of the actions initiated by the Polish Presidency.

As part of the aspirations for the idea of open Europe, the Polish Presidency undertook to establish a compromise concerning its expansion. During the work, the Presidency followed the motto of the Solidarity movement: ‘Daringly, but with deliberation’. The questions of expanding the EU ranked high in the agenda of the Presidency, in line with the current position of Poland, pointing to the strategic importance of the process for the reinforcement of security and stability in Europe. The adopted objective was achieved, namely ensuring progress in the implementation of the expansion strategy.

Initiated in 2010/2011, the events of the Arab Spring, which encompassed most states of Northern Africa and the Near East (the so-called EU Southern Neighbourhood being part of the European Neighbourhood Policy) and partially the Arab Peninsula, dominated the EU agenda in matters related to external affairs in 2011 and shaped the priorities of the Polish Presidency in the second half of 2011. On the one hand, a challenge for the current EU policy was the endeavour for stabilisation and security in its environment and reaction to the dynamically changing situation in the region. On the other, the goal was to present the states of the South with a new, effective offer of cooperation and support for the process of democratic transformations. Following the above, the activities of the Polish Presidency in the strategic dimension aimed at supporting EU institutions and intensification of bilateral actions channelled into the implementation of the new approach/new partnership in relations with the states of the Southern Neighbourhood, by forming a new offer of collaboration and a flexible set of instruments for supporting the democratic transformation and also short-term assistance as an answer to current events. The goal of the Polish Presidency was to bring
3.5. Implementation of the programme

about the establishment of a flexible financial mechanism of support for the construction of democratic institutions and civil society in the form of the European Endowment for Democracy and – in bilateral relations – sharing of experiences in transformation from the last two decades with the states of the Southern Neighbourhood.

During the Polish Presidency, the European Union continued support for the democratic transformations in Tunisia and Egypt and also the reconstruction of statehood in Libya. It also undertook to embark on the negotiations of an in-depth and versatile free-trade zone with four states of the region (Egypt, Jordan, Tunisia, Morocco). The European Union launched the SPRING initiative, which included the programming of additional aid funds (€ 350 million) for the Southern Neighbourhood. Initiated was a process of the so-called dialogues for migration with selected states of the Southern Neighbourhood, which are to bring about the establishment of partnerships on migration.

As far as the EU Common Commercial Policy is concerned, significant for the Polish Presidency were actions aimed at the normalisation of business and trading relations in the close vicinity of the EU, including the Neighbourhood Policy: in both its Eastern and Southern dimensions.

The most important achievements of the Presidency in the Eastern dimension include:

» agreeing the conditions of Russia’s accession to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and Russia’s accession to the WTO

» signing an understanding between the EU and the Russian Federation normalising the question of flights over Siberia: an issue important for European airlines (including LOT)

» finalising the negotiations of the contract on the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA) EU – Ukraine, part of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement, whose negotiations finished in December 2011

» embarking on analogous DCFTA negotiations with Georgia and Moldova, which the European Commission officially announced on 12 December 2011.

In the southern dimension of trade policy, the assumption of a mandate for the negotiations of DCFTA agreements between the EU and the countries of Northern Africa (Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia) was successfully achieved.

In addition, accession of Montenegro to the WTO and acceptance of EU autonomous trade preferences for the Western Balkans were achieved.

Faced with the lack of real opportunity for closing negotiations within the Doha WTO Round, the Presidency – as agreed with the European Commission – focused its efforts on leading up to the approval of the arrangements that would maintain the credibility of the WTO. As a result of the 8th WTO Ministerial Conference (15-17 December 2011), a facilitation package for the states at the lowest level of development (the LDC countries) was approved.

A significant element of the package is the approval of the so-called waiver on services for the LDCs, which allows preferential treatment of these countries in the services trade, approval of a simplified path of WTO accession for LDC states, approval of a moratorium concerning the application of the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS WTO) towards these countries and a moratorium concerning e-commerce. Moreover, despite the continuing deadlock, the continuation of the Doha Round negotiations was decided. A measurable achievement of the Conference is the completion of the 12-year-long WTO negotiations on the access to the market of public procurement by revising the Agreement on Government Procurement (GPA), which will significantly increase the value of trade exchange covered by public procurement.
3.6. General Affairs Council

3.6.1. Enlargement

During the Polish Presidency, important decisions on European Union enlargement policy were taken. On 5 December 2011, the General Affairs Council endorsed a ‘new approach’ to the relevant negotiations, consisting in the earliest possible opening of negotiations in the most difficult chapters (the judiciary and fundamental rights, justice, freedom and security).

The Polish Presidency closed the last chapter of the process of Croatia’s accession to the EU. Work was finalised on the text of the Accession Treaty with Croatia, which was signed on 9 December 2011. Croatia’s accession to the EU will serve as a positive example and encourage other countries of the Western Balkans to implement European reforms.

We secured considerable progress in accession negotiations with Iceland. During two accession conferences in October and December 2011, we opened seven chapters and closed negotiations in six chapters.

We maintained the process of accession negotiations with Turkey. The lack of progress in resolving the Cyprus question and Ankara’s delay in implementing reforms (caused, among other things, by the slow pace of parliamentary work connected with elections) prevented the opening of negotiations in new chapters. Still, despite serious difficulties in the relations between Turkey and Cyprus, a lack of enthusiasm in some European capitals for Turkey’s accession to the EU and Ankara’s growing assertiveness in the realm of foreign policy, the Polish Presidency managed to broker a balanced text of the relevant GAC conclusions.

The Presidency ensured progress in the process of European integration of Western Balkan states. The path was opened to the beginning of accession negotiations with Montenegro in June 2012. The General Affairs Council conclusions adopted in December 2011 also signify a substantial strengthening of the EU’s relations with Kosovo.

In September 2011, the Polish Presidency brokered a balanced text of General Affairs Council conclusions on the Cooperation and Verification Mechanism (CVM) for Romania and Bulgaria. A comprehensive review of the CVM’s five year in existence is scheduled for mid-2012.

The Polish Presidency also implemented a number of crucial undertakings in support of the diplomatic process designed to achieve further EU enlargement. On 14 November 2011, foreign ministers of the Member States attended an ‘Enlargement Forum’ in Brussels. In September 2011, Warsaw hosted two conferences: ‘The Future of Enlargement - Opportunities and Challenges’ and ‘The Western Balkans on the Path to the European Union’.

3.6.2. Multiannual Financial Framework

The General Affairs Council examined all the financial and horizontal aspects of the Multiannual Financial Framework. It was an undisputable achievement of the Polish Presidency that Member States accepted the Polish-sponsored operating methodology, including the leading role of the General Affairs Council, and recognised the Commission proposals on the MFF as the basis for further debate.

The European Commission unveiled its proposals on the financial framework on 18 July 2011, while European affairs ministers met in informal session in Sopot on 28 and 29 July 2011 – an event that marked the opening of political-level debate on the EU financial perspective for the years 2014-2020.

The technical-level works were conducted within the framework of the Friends of the Presidency Group (MFF 2014-2020) and also by other groups including the Working Party on Own Resources – within the framework of which, in addition to group discussion, the Presidency organised two technical seminars: on the methodology of cohesion-policy-related allocation calculations and on Common Agricultural Policy.

A number of orientation debates were held during subsequent sessions of the General Affairs Council. During the debate on 12 September 2011, all the Member States concurred as to the duration of the financial framework. The November session of the General Affairs Council saw an orientation debate on cohesion policy, the ‘Connecting Europe’ Facility, the Common Agricultural Policy and the Common Fisheries Policy. The debate on cohesion policy focused, in particular, on macro-conditionality, the new category of transitional regions, and limits on cohesion-policy allocations. Concerning the Common Agricultural Policy, the Member States did not take an unequivocal position as regards the issue of equalising direct payments.

On 23 November 2011, COREPER II held an orientation debate on the EU’s own resources. Most Member States favoured reform of the present system and opposed any corrective mechanisms. The debate on a financial-transaction tax and a new VAT-based resource did not produce conclusions and requires further discussion and clarifications by the Commission.

At the December General Affairs Council, the Presidency summed up the work on the MFF. It presented a progress report which was received as a balanced and uncontroversial document. The Presidency report on the MFF,
noted in the December conclusions of the European Council, has good prospects for becoming the basis for further negotiations under the Danish Presidency.

3.6.3. Cohesion policy as an effective and territorially diversified response to European Union development challenges

It was the primary goal of the Polish Presidency in the area of cohesion policy to initiate and advance as far as possible negotiations on the Commission’s proposals concerning policy regulations for the period 2014-2020. Despite the early stage of the negotiations on the next Multiannual Financial Framework and the cohesion-policy legislative packet for the years 2014-2020, the Polish Presidency ensured that issues pertaining to the policy were addressed at a high political level. The future shape of cohesion policy was taken up on three occasions by the General Affairs Council (11 October, 15 November and 16 December 2011).

Within two months after the launching of the negotiations, the Polish Presidency managed to table compromise proposals on strategic programming and thematic concentration, which the Danish Presidency will use as the basis for further work aimed at reaching final consensus.

The first-ever formal meeting of ministers responsible for cohesion policy — organised within the framework of the General Affairs Council on 16 December 2011 — became the primary high-level political event. The discussion was based on the ‘Presidency report on negotiations of the legislative package of cohesion policy for the years 2014-2020’. The report covered the period up to the end of November 2011 and identified consensus areas as well as issues requiring further work with regard to four thematic negotiation blocks (strategic programming, thematic concentration, conditionality and territorial development). On its basis, the Polish Presidency pinpointed the key issues pertaining to strategic programming and thematic concentration that needed to be addressed in orientation debate by the ministers.

At their meeting, the ministers gave high marks to the Presidency report; the related debate was fruitful and highlighted the preferences of the majority of Member States on the topics in question. The debate conclusions, compiled by the Presidency in the ‘Summary of the orientation debate on cohesion policy post-2013 in the framework of the General Affairs Council meeting’ (Brussels, 16 December 2011) was conveyed to the Member States and will serve as the basis for further work finalising the discussions in these two negotiation blocks during subsequent presidencies.

Simultaneously, issues connected with the present stage of cohesion policy programming appeared on the Council agenda and it became essential to institute two amendments to the present regulation 1083/2006: an amendment on repayable assistance and financial-engineering instruments as well as an amendment of the regulation itself regarding increased financing for countries in difficult financial straits. The Polish Presidency efficiently worked out the Council position on these proposals and wrapped up the whole Union legislative process by the end of 2011.

3.6.4. First review of EU Strategy for Baltic Sea Region

The Polish Presidency completed a review of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR). On 15 November 2011, the General Affairs Council adopted the related conclusions. They incorporate a number of practical recommendations meant to stimulate the implementation of the EUSBSR, which two years after its inception was struggling with a number of problems (need to upgrade Strategy management by strengthening the role of the EC and boosting the political engagement of Member States at various levels of administration; need for the definition of clear goals and indicators, facilitating Strategy evaluation; provision of sufficient financing by involving cohesion policy and other sectoral policies in EUSBSR implementation). On 24-26 October 2011 the Presidency co-hosted the 2nd EUSBSR Forum in Gdańsk titled ‘New Ambitions for the Baltic Sea Region’, combined with the 13th Baltic Development Forum Summit.

3.6.5. European Economic Area, cooperation with EFTA countries

The Polish Presidency saw the establishment of an informal EU-Switzerland negotiation group which held two rounds of horizontal meetings by high-level experts for the purpose of resolving contentious issues related to the different approaches of the parties to the mode of conducting negotiations and selecting negotiation areas. Simultaneously, the European Commission and the European External Action Service pursued negotiations concerning the code of conduct on business taxation and exchange of tax information with Switzerland and Liechtenstein.
Following a debate on the deepening of relations with micro-states, a currency agreement with the Principality of Monaco was signed on 30 November 2011.

The EFTA working group reviewed the implementation of the EEA/EFTA Financial Mechanisms and the Swiss Financial Assistance Programme designed to reduce social and economic disparities in the new EU Member States. It also conducted a preparatory discussion before the EEA Agreement Review scheduled by the EC in spring 2012, and also a debate on the progress and prospects of the negotiations to liberalise trade with Norway in processed agricultural products. The Polish Presidency conducted a discussion concerning the basis for negotiation of another perspective of the EEA/EFTA Financial Mechanisms and potential talks with Switzerland regarding the continuation of financial assistance.

During the 36th session of the Council of the European Economic Area on 15 November 2011, a debate was held on ways of countering the economic-financial crisis. The participants adopted conclusions summarising the state of cooperation between the EU and non-EU EEA Member States. The discussion also covered the functioning of the EEA Agreement, with special reference to the implementation of the ‘acquis communautaire’ in the EEA countries.

3.6.6. Nuclear issues

Crowning earlier work by the Hungarian Presidency, the Polish Presidency brought about the adoption by the Council of a directive laying down the Community framework in the sphere of responsible and safe management of spent nuclear fuel and radioactive waste.

The Working Party on Atomic Questions (WPAQ) initiated discussion and reached full agreement concerning a draft directive that defines the basic requirements concerning health protection related to radioactive substances in water intended for human consumption. Also, the Group started discussions on revision of the directive introducing basic safety norms related to ionising radiation. The Polish Presidency conducted the first exchange of opinions concerning key issues regulated by the proposed directive and suggested the structure of further discussion on the issue, endorsed by Denmark.

Fulfilling the European Council conclusions of 24 and 25 March 2011, the WPAQ monitored the progress of stress tests in EU nuclear power plants — with particular note to nuclear safety and security measures; the task was carried out by the Ad Hoc Group on Nuclear Security.

Regarding the promotion of nuclear safety on a global scale, agreement was reached on the response of the Euratom Community to the initiative of the Russian Federation concerning the updating of the ‘Convention on Nuclear Safety and the Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident’. The initiative was assessed as valuable and potentially enhancing international nuclear safety.

In view of the lack of acceptance by producers, suppliers and users of proposed legal norms concerning the safety of radio isotope supplies for medical use, no agreement was reached concerning the establishment of a ‘Joint Undertaking’ — as had been postulated by the European Commission. The matter will require further consultations amongst all the interested parties.

3.6.7. Integration and optimization of the European Statistical System

With regard to the regulation concerning European statistics on permanent crops and revision of the regulation on statistical returns concerning road transport of goods, the Polish Presidency — following negotiations with the European Parliament — worked out compromise proposals that permitted the completion of the related legislative procedures. The two acts were approved by the EP and the Council in first reading.

Substantial progress was made in work on a regulation regarding the European System of National and Regional Accounts in the European Union (ESA 2010); it is likely to have significant impact on the adoption of key EU decisions.

A regulation on European statistics concerning safety from crime was also included in the Council’s work. A compromise document was drafted, receiving the endorsement of a clear majority of the Member States.

Since the Commission motion concerning a regulation on the European Statistical Program 2013-2017 was only submitted to the Council on 21 December 2011, it could not be taken up by the Polish Presidency.

3.6.8. Integrated maritime policy

The Polish Presidency was instrumental in the first-reading adoption of a regulation establishing the Programme to support the further development of an integrated maritime policy.

The launching of the Programme, covering the years 2011-2013, will stimulate the further development of the maritime sector, in consequence enhancing living standards in the EU. The adopted regulation provides that the programme will be financed with 40 million EUR in
re-allocations and current budget expenditures in the period from 1 January 2011 to 31 December 2013.

The funds envisaged in the regulation include 23.14 million EUR out of the 2011 budget, 16.66 million EUR — including a technical assistance allocation — accepted by the Council in the reading of the 2012 budget and another 200,000 EUR in technical assistance, which is to be included in the 2013 budget.

During the Polish Presidency, the EU Council adopted conclusions on the integrated maritime policy of the EU. The conclusions noted the contribution of the integrated maritime policy towards meeting the objectives set in the Europe 2020 Strategy by harnessing the potential of Europe’s maritime and coastal economy through advanced knowledge and innovation and by supporting the development of better jobs and qualifications to meet the need of greater global competition.

In addition to items envisaged in its agenda, the Presidency succeeded in brokering an agreement on the obligatory preparation by Member States - and transmission to the European Commission - of documents explaining the degree of convergence between EU directives and national transposition measures, i.e. documents constituting a synthetic compilation of directive provisions and their corresponding national law provisions in each of the Member States. That put an end to months-long discussions between experts from Member States and the European Commission, which - for procedural reasons - had blocked the legislative process in EU institutions. Two joint political declarations on the explanatory documents were worked out and then affirmed by the Member States on 29 September 2011 and by the European Parliament at its plenary session on 27 October 2011.

In line with the declarations, the EC has the task of identifying and substantiating which directives, due to their character, require - after being adopted - the transmission of documents with information on their transposition by the respective Member States. At the same time, Member States undertook that in justified cases – indicated in the preamble of the given directive – they would prepare such explanatory documents and transmit them to the Commission.

The Polish Presidency saw the initiation and significant advancement of discussions on reforms of the European Union’s Court of Justice, i.e. legislative changes in the statute of the Court of Justice and annex 1 to the statute, as proposed in the Court’s submission of 28 March 2011. The Polish Presidency initiated the first discussion on the proposed reforms at the level of European affairs ministers during a meeting of the General Affairs Council on 18 July 2011. Next, the Working Party on the Court of Justice conducted a detailed technical analysis of the proposed changes: it considered the composition of the Grand Chamber of the Court of Justice, the creation of the post of Vice-President of the Court, its internal organization, the postulate to increase the number of judges, and issues pertaining to the selection of additional judges. The works on reform of the Court of Justice will be continued.
3.7. Foreign Affairs Council

3.7.1. EU external relations

Close collaboration of Presidency with the President of the European Council, the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the European External Action Service (EEAS), and the European Commission allowed efficient coordination of the issues concerning the external policy of the EU.

One of the main goals of the Polish Presidency was the strengthening of the role of the European Union on the international stage and emphasising its efficiency in the capacity of an organisation using the potential of Member States and EU institutions. The achievement of the Polish priorities concerning the external relations of the EU was held in agreement with and with the support of actions undertaken by High Representative Catherine Ashton, in her capacity of President of the Foreign Affairs Council.

The Presidency took place at the time when EEAS was taking shape, amid ensuing challenges related to the development of the principles of its operation. This concerned both internal (development of the organisational structure of the Service, fine-tuning of the relationships between the EEAS with European institutions and Member States) and external (carrying out the priorities of operation of the Service on the international stage) EU dimensions.

Developed by Poland, the co-operative model of collaboration with the High Representative and the EEAS had aims that included emphasising the mutual benefits stemming from the involvement of the diplomacy of the state holding the Presidency in the activity of the EEAS. In this way, the model favoured the accounting for the interests of the rotating presidency in the process of shaping the agenda of external EU policy. Despite a more active (compared to the previous presidencies) model of collaborating with the EEAS, in its activities Poland did not go beyond the framework drafted by the provisions of the Treaty of Lisbon. It must be emphasised that the practice of replacing – in specific cases – the High Representative by the Polish Presidency in contacts with third party partners and at the forum of the European Parliament (as agreed with the EEAS) found recognition from the Service itself, which addressed the Danish Presidency, asking for continuation of this mode of operation.

The Polish priorities related to the deepening of relations with the countries of the Eastern Partnership, reinforcement of the processes of stabilisation and democratisation in the regions neighbouring the European Union, and the development of the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) provided in the past half-year a significant element of the discussion during the individual sessions of the Foreign Affairs Council, including the Informal Meeting of Foreign Ministers (Gymnich) organised in September 2011 in Sopot.

The assumed programme for the development and reinforcement of the Eastern Partnership must be considered completed. The 2nd summit of the Eastern Partnership in Warsaw was conducted successfully, and the Joint Declaration signed by its participants included – as suggested by the Presidency – clauses corroborating the intention of a further deepening of integration of partner states with the EU, recognition of their European aspirations, striving for economic integration with the EU market, and for the development of a visa-free regime, and also regarding the deepening of sector collaboration and opening of UE agencies and programmes for the citizens of partner states. Moreover, the document quoted the EU’s obligation to earmark €1.9 billion for carrying out the goals of the Eastern Partnership in 2010–2013, an amount that the EU additionally increased by € 150 million allocated for the period up to 2013. Thanks to the intensive efforts of Poland, the unity of the EU concerning the conditional quality of policy towards Belarus was retained during the Presidency.

These activities were complemented with the initiation of the Eastern Partnership Business Forum, organisation of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum of the Eastern Partnership, launching of regional co-operation (CORLEAP) and parliamentary (EUROPEAN) collaboration and more than ten sector meetings with Eastern partners.

The fruit of the debates inspired by the Presidency and supported by the High Representative was the adopting of conclusions concerning the Polish initiative (December 2011) to establish the European Endowment for Democracy at the forum of the Council. Presented for the first time by Poland in January 2011, the proposal to establish the Endowment will provide – after its launch planned for 2012 – an innovative element in supporting democratic and stabilising activities in the neighbourhood of the Union by the EU, and in consequence, a rapprochement in relations between the EU and non-EU states. The Endowment will allow flexible and quick reaction to the needs of emerging democracies. The idea behind the establishment of the Endowment was the main initiative of the Presidency for the reinforcement of democratisation processes in the vicinity of the EU.

The Polish Presidency was active in the field of supporting democratisation and construction of modern state structures in the countries of Northern Africa. Moreover, it provided the necessary humanitarian aid. The Polish presence in the region at the political level – including on behalf and in agreement with the High Representative – provided a complementation of Polish consulting and training initiatives. Promotional activities included the Warsaw conference at the level of higher...
officials devoted to the collaboration with the countries of the Eastern Neighbourhood.

As a part of the priority regarding the development of Common Security and Defence Policy, the Presidency facilitated the adoption of the conclusion of the Foreign Affairs Council regarding all the proposals under discussion. A decision regarding better use of existing structures and the improvement of the capacity to plan CSDP operations and missions at the strategic level, including the launching of the Operations Centre for operations in the Horn of Africa (for the first time in the history of CSDP) was made. The solutions adopted, assuming among others reinforcement of anticipative planning, are to speed up decision making at the political level, improve information exchange, assure better synergy on the civilian-military interconnection, and improve collaboration with other international organisations.

Thanks to the efforts of the Polish Presidency, issues of key importance for the further development of the defensive capacity of the EU were discussed. Poland maintained the interest of Member States in the subject of increasing the efficiency of the Battle Groups, while in 2012 the EEAS structures were obliged to resend specific proposals of actions serving the use of the Battle Groups. Also adopted was a declaration regarding the increase of the scope of joint financing of strategic transport of the Battle Groups on duty in 2012–2013. On 8 December 2011, the Council adopted the declaration regarding the financing of all the types of strategic inbound and outbound transport of the EU Battle Groups from the Athena mechanism. During the Polish Presidency a decision that Member States would carry out 11 specific programmes as a part of the Pooling and Sharing initiative was reached. It was also decided that the implementation of these programmes should run coherently with the work of NATO conducted as a part of the Smart Defence initiative.

For the first time, the Presidency introduced the subject of reinforcing collaboration in the CSDP area with the Eastern neighbours of the EU – the states of the Eastern Partnership and Russia – into the discussion of the Foreign Affairs Council. The Polish Presidency presented a range of relevant realistic proposals, concerning matters such as collaboration and training, systematic political dialogue, collaboration with the EU in reforming the security sector, increasing the involvement of partners in EU missions and operations, and cooperation in the scope of developing defence capacity.

Due to political conditions, the Polish Presidency did not propose new initiatives regarding relations between the EU and NATO. It focused on supporting the dialogue of the High Representative with the Secretary General and the development of collaboration and expert level.

3.7.2. Collaboration for development and humanitarian aid

With respect to the distributed nature of competencies of the EU and Member States in the area of collaboration on development and the new institutional order of the EU (the role of the EEAS), Poland made sure that the role of the Presidency was appropriately taken into consideration.

Serving that goal was the informal meeting of the ministers for development in Sopot on 14-15 July 2011, which was convened as a sole initiative of the Presidency to discuss the most important issues in the EU development agenda, including ones significant from the point of view of Poland, and including the role of democracy for development and development strategy for the countries of Central Asia. It is worth noting that the programme of the Danish Presidency does not envisage an assembly of the Informal Development Council.

Poland actively participated in the preparations for the 4th High Level Forum on Effective Assistance in Pusan, held from 29 November to 1 December 2011. Thanks to the intensive efforts, a representative of the Presidency participated as an observer in the sessions of the Sherpa Group, whose task was to work out the draft of the final document of the Forum. During the Forum, the Presidency played the role of the coordinator of EU position and activities.

Poland was also the host of the 4th European Development Days, held in Warsaw on 15 and 16 December 2011. The leading themes of the event were development and democracy. During the conference, plenty of attention was also devoted to the question of efficiency of aid, in relation to the 4th High Level Forum on Effective Assistance in Pusan, Korea (29 November to 1 December 2011).

At the forum of the EU, the Presidency reacted in real time to the deteriorating humanitarian situation in the Horn of Africa. On 18 July 2011, the Polish Presidency summoned an extraordinary session of the working group for humanitarian aid in Brussels, during which the representatives of the world’s largest humanitarian organisations (including UNHCR, UNICEF, International Red Cross Committee, ‘Médecins Sans Frontières’, and Oxfam) addressed the 27 Member States of the EU and the European Commission for support for the victims of the crisis in the Horn of Africa.
3.7.3. Trade policy

Regarding the Common Commercial Policy of the EU, the Presidency embarked on actions aimed at the normalisation of business and trading relations within the neighbourhood policy, both in its eastern and southern dimensions.

December 2011 saw the close of negotiations on the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA) EU-Ukraine, being a part of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement, which was a strategic goal of the Polish Presidency in trade relations. Conclusion of the agreement will help to increase the business and trade linkage between EU and Ukraine. We expect the quickest possible initialising and later signature of the Association Agreement, and the DCFTA agreement integrated with it.

At the same time, the Polish Presidency facilitated the initiation of analogous DCFTA negotiations with Georgia and Moldova, and also – in collaboration with the European Commission – facilitated agreement, after 18 years of negotiations, on conditions for accession of Russia to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and the decision taken during the 8th WTO Ministerial Conference in Geneva, concerning the accession of Russia to the WTO.

As a result of the 8th WTO Ministerial Conference (15-17 December 2011), in agreement with the European Commission, the Presidency focused all its effort on bringing about the adoption of a package for the least developed countries (LDC). These arrangements maintain the credibility of the WTO in the face of a lack of realistic potential for concluding negotiations as a part of WTO’s Doha Round.

Signed during the Polish Presidency were agreements between EU and Russia, normalising the questions of flights over Siberia, which is a significant question for the European airlines, including also PLL LOT.

In the southern dimension, the Council adopted the mandate for the European Commission to negotiate the DCFTA agreements with the countries of the Northern Africa, i.e. Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, and Tunisia. By the way of actions focused on the South of Europe, one should also point to the decision concerning the accession of Montenegro to the WTO, and bringing about the adoption of EU autonomous trade preferences for Western Balkans.

Achieved during the Polish Presidency was also progress concerning trade relations between EU and other non-Member States. A revision was facilitated of the European Commission’s negotiation mandate regarding excluding the question of protection of investments from contracts concerning the free trade zone with India and Singapore, and the Canada-European Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA).

The divergences of the interests of the parties in negotiations of the trade-related pillar of the EU-Mercosur Association Agreement regarding mutual access to the market, including especially the question of opening the agricultural market, makes the negotiations a difficult process, and influences the slow pace of these works. These negotiations were continued during the Polish Presidency. Held in November 2011 was their 7th round in Montevideo.

After the adoption of the corollaries concerning the signing and conclusion of the EU-Columbia-Peru Multilateral Trade Agreement and the EU Association Agreement with the countries of Central America, the premises of legal and linguistic verification of the wording of these agreements began. After the completion of these works, the Council will be able to take a decision regarding the signing of the agreements and temporary application of some of their provisions, and will adopt draft decisions on concluding the contracts. In the case of the EU-Columbia-Peru Multilateral Trade Agreement and the EU Association Agreement, the Polish Presidency facilitated the final shape of the position of the EU Council regarding the legal character of the agreement. Due to the decisions regarding the mixed status of the agreement undertaken, work was conducted on the preparation of a reviewed conclusion regarding the decision of the Council on the signing of the agreement and the temporary application of some of its provisions. Also begun also was work at the Council concerning the bylaws regarding the protective clauses to the above-mentioned agreements.

The Polish Presidency advanced work on the new system of EU unilateral customs preferences for developing and least developed countries (Generalised System of Preferences). The key directions of the reform were defined, especially the maximum focusing of EU trade assistance on the countries in greatest need of support, which in effect meant, besides the consolidation of the system and improvement of its functionality, a significant reduction in the number of the beneficiaries.

Adopted by the Council as part of the activity for the reduction of barriers in international trade was a report concerning the key barriers in trade and investments. The report was discussed by the European Council with the recommendation to tackle these issues during the meetings and summits with specific non-EU states that apply such barriers.

An important achievement was the conclusion, within the World Trade Organisation, of the 12 year-long negotiations regarding the deepening of access to the market of public procurement (the Agreement on Government Procurement).
3.7.4. Consular matters

Despite the fact that the area of the Foreign Affairs and Security Policy is managed by the European External Action Service, the management of a number of preparatory bodies of the Foreign Affairs Council was retained, as an exception, in the competencies of the rotating presidency. One of the working groups operating in the system was the Consular Cooperation Working Group (GR COCON). The main goal of the Polish Presidency regarding consular affairs was to ensure appropriate coordination of the actions of Member States in the matters of consular care, accounting for the conclusions drawn from the recent world crises.

The Polish Presidency managed to agree the assumptions of a draft of a functional model of cooperation between consular services of Member States during major sports events, with special respect to the approaching European Football Championship in 2012. Moreover, the Presidency performed a review of models of consular crisis reaction from the point of view of identifying the best action practices, and conducted introductory discussion concerning the draft Directive of the Council on consular protection for citizens of the Union abroad published by the European Commission on 14 December 2011.

The Presidency also succeeded in working out a compromise, while determining the contents of consular references in the EU-Australia Framework Agreement, and conducting discussions regarding the opportunities for using financial and operational support of the EU Monitoring and Information Centre (MIC) in consular operations.

In the second half of 2011, 86 Polish consular missions all over the world formally played the role of local consular Presidency, carrying out individualised programmes of action. Established in many locations for the first time were joint emergency and evacuation plans of representations of EU Member States, in case of an occurrence of a crisis situation. Due to the poor external representation of the remaining partners of the Presidency trio, some Polish consular missions declared their readiness to continue their duties resulting from the local presidency beyond 1 January 2012 (including in Amman, Baghdad, Kuwait, Reykjavik, and Tunis).
DURING THE POLISH PRESIDENCY, THE ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL HELD SIX FORMAL SESSIONS (INCLUDING ONE MEETING DEVOTED TO BUDGET-RELATED MATTERS) AND ONE INFORMAL MEETING IN WROCŁAW. THE PRESIDENCY WAS MARKED BY VIGOROUS EFFORTS TO ADDRESS THE ONGOING DEBT CRISIS, INCLUDING THE INTRODUCTION OF EFFECTIVE SOLUTIONS DESIGNED TO PREVENT THE CONTAGION OF DEBT PROBLEMS IN THE EURO AREA AND TO UPGRADE THE COORDINATION OF THE EU’S ECONOMIC POLICY.

THE POLISH PRESIDENCY BROKERED THE ADOPTION OF A PACKAGE OF SIX LEGAL ACTS STRENGTHENING ECONOMIC GOVERNANCE IN THE EU AND, PARTICULARLY, WITHIN THE EURO AREA. FOUR OF THEM CONCERN PUBLIC FINANCES AND REFORM THE PREVENTIVE AND CORRECTIVE PARTS OF THE STABILITY AND GROWTH PACT. A NEW DIRECTIVE ON BUDGET FRAME REQUIREMENTS WILL ENSURE THAT NATIONAL SOLUTIONS REINFORCE FISCAL DISCIPLINE WITHIN THE EU. MOREOVER, OVERSIGHT OF NATIONAL ECONOMIC POLICIES WILL BE BOOSTED THROUGH THE INTRODUCTION OF A MECHANISM TO REDUCE EXCESSIVE MACROECONOMIC IMBALANCES. A NEW ‘EXCESSIVE IMBALANCE PROCEDURE’ WAS INTRODUCED - REINFORCED WITH POTENTIAL SANCTIONS FOR ANY LAPSES OF DISCIPLINE. THE NEW PROCEDURES, WHICH CAME INTO EFFECT UNDER THE POLISH PRESIDENCY, ARE CERTAIN TO HAVE THE LONG-TERM EFFECT OF IMPROVING BUDGET DISCIPLINE AND ENHANCING ECONOMIC STABILITY IN THE EU.


THE HARMONISATION OF MEASURES TO BE TAKEN IN EMERGENCY SITUATIONS, CONSTITUTING A SERIOUS THREAT TO FINANCIAL STABILITY, WAS ACHIEVED. THE AGREEMENT RESTRICTS THE CONCLUSION OF UNCOVERED CREDIT RISK TRANSACTIONS THAT RELATE TO SOVEREIGN DEBT WHILE PROVIDING DUE FLEXIBILITY FOR REGULATORS IN THE MEMBER STATES, GRANTING THEM THE PREROGATIVE OF LIFTING THE BAN ON SUCH TRANSACTIONS AND COUNTERING ITS NEGATIVE EFFECTS. MOREOVER, THE AGREEMENT INCLUDES EXEMPTIONS FROM THE BAN FOR SUCH MARKET PRACTICES AS PROXY Hedging AND FOR THE MAIN DEALERS AND MARKET MAKERS.

THE COUNCIL ALSO ADOPTED A GENERAL APPROACH CONCERNING OTC DERIVATIVES, CENTRAL COUNTERPARTIES AND TRADE REPOSITORIES (EMIR). THE AIM OF THE DRAFT IS TO ENHANCE THE SECURITY OF THE DERIVATIVES MARKET BY BOOSTING ITS TRANSPARENCY AND STABILITY, PROTECTING INVESTORS AND REDUCING OPERATIONAL RISK. THE NEW SOLUTIONS OBLIGATE INVESTMENT FIRMS TO TRANSFER TO TRADE REPOSITORIES INFORMATION ON OTC DERIVATIVES CONTRACTS AND TO CLEAR STANDARDISED OTC DERIVATIVES CONTRACTS THROUGH CENTRAL COUNTERPARTIES.

THE COUNCIL ALSO ADOPTED A DRAFT REGULATION INTRODUCING TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS FOR CREDIT TRANSFERS AND DIRECT DEBITS IN EURO (SINGLE EURO PAYMENTS AREA, SEPA) LAYING DOWN SPECIFIC TECHNICAL TRANSFER AND DEBIT REQUIREMENTS ON ALL MEMBER STATES RELATIVE TO EURO TRANSACTION. THE REGULATION ALSO STIPULATED DATES FOR MIGRATION TO SEPA PAYMENT SCHEMES AND DEFINED A NUMBER OF OTHER RULES (E.G. ACCESSIBILITY, REACHABILITY AND INTEROPERABILITY OF PAYMENT SYSTEMS).

DURING THE POLISH PRESIDENCY THE COUNCIL AGREED ON A GENERAL APPROACH TO INVESTOR COMPENSATION SCHEMES WHICH INCREASES INVESTOR PROTECTION IN INSTANCES WHEN AN INVESTMENT COMPANY CANNOT RETURN ASSETS HELD ON BEHALF OF INVESTORS. THE COMPROMISE HARMONISES COMPENSATION LIMITS AND THE FINANCING OF COMPENSATION SCHEMES, INTRODUCING THE POSSIBILITY OF PARTIAL COMPENSATION.

UNDER OMNIBUS II - A DIRECTIVE THAT CHANGES PROSPECTUS AND SOLVENCY II - A GENERAL APPROACH WAS ADOPTED. THE ABOVE-MENTIONED DIRECTIVES AMEND REGULATIONS CONCERNING THE EMISSION OF PROSPECTUSES PUBLISHED IN CONNECTION WITH A PUBLIC OFFER OR THE SALE OF SECURITIES AS WELL AS THE INITIATION AND CONDUCT OF INSURANCE AND REINSURANCE ACTIVITY; THE AMENDMENT WAS NECESSARY IN CONNECTION WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT, EFFECTIVE 1 JANUARY 2011, OF THE NEW UNION FINANCIAL SUPERVISION STRUCTURE.

FURTHERMORE, THE COUNCIL ENDORSED A PROGRESS REPORT ON WORKS CONCERNING CAPITAL REQUIREMENTS (CRD IV) WHICH INCLUDES A DRAFT DIRECTIVE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL ON THE ACCESS TO THE ACTIVITY OF CREDIT INSTITUTIONS AND THE PRUDENTIAL SUPERVISION OF CREDIT INSTITUTIONS AND INVESTMENT FIRMS.

THE COUNCIL ALSO ADOPTED AN AMENDMENT OF THE DIRECTIVE ON FINANCIAL CONGLERATES, DESIGNED TO CLOSE LEGAL LOOPHOLES AND ENSURE SUPPLEMENTARY SUPERVISION OF THE ENTITIES IN A FINANCIAL CONGLERATE. THE DIRECTIVE IS DESIGNED
to upgrade the supplementary supervision of large and complex financial groups in the EU while maintaining their competitive positions, to strengthen risk management connected with financial conglomerates, to eliminate the possibility of regulatory arbitrage, to reduce burdens connected with the observance of regulations and to ensure equal opportunities.

Negotiations were also initiated on company reporting obligations and on a draft financial instruments market directive and regulation (MiFID and MiFIR). The opening of these works permitted the identification of controversial issues (algorithmic trading, inclusion of emission rights in the list of financial instruments, position limits on commodity derivatives, rules for data consolidation and reporting), which will facilitate the future works of the next Presidency in this area.

On direct taxation, works continued on the European Commission proposal for a common consolidated tax base.

In the area of statistics, considerable progress was made on a legislative submission concerning revision of the European System of National and Regional Accounts in the European Union (ESA 2010), which is the basis of key decisions regarding the coordination and convergence of Member State economic policies. The final version of the ESA 2010 methodological manual was prepared and agreement was reached on the tables of the data transmission programme. The works on the draft ESA regulation are likely to be concluded during the Presidency of the Poland-Denmark-Cyprus trio.

Furthermore, in addition to actions envisaged in its agenda, the Presidency brokered the adoption of a compromise proposal by the Economic and Financial Affairs Council concerning a bank package, ensuring the midterm financing and capitalization of banks in the EU, which then was incorporated in the relevant European Council conclusions.

The Presidency also unveiled its own proposals concerning the economic and financial impact assessment of the new Union initiatives, guided by the conviction that amelioration of public finances was the chief task of the Member States during the present crisis.

Moreover, the Presidency presented the coordinated and unified position of the EU at G-20 meetings of finance ministers and central bank presidents.
3.9. Competitiveness Council (COMPET)

3.9.1. The internal market

The Presidency continued or started work on legislative motions concerning 7 out of 12 levers contained in the Single Market Act, they were: the unitary patent protection system (lever No. 3), alternative dispute resolution (lever No. 4), European standardisation system (lever No. 5), energy and transport infrastructure (lever No. 6), mutual recognition of electronic identification and authentication, electronic signature (lever No. 7), taxation of energy (lever No. 9), and simplification of the accounting directives (lever No. 11). In the case of the remaining five initiatives, there were delays in the publication of legislation projects by the European Commission, which is why the Polish Presidency could not begin working on them.

The Polish Presidency began the performance check process in the services market, which is based on the examination of the practical functioning of national legislation of EU states concerning services in three selected sectors: tourism, services for business (tax advisors), and construction. The Presidency managed to bring about the streamlining of the methodology of the process, the conclusion of which is planned for 2012, after presentation of the report of the European Commission summing up the process and the resultant conclusions.

Moreover, the Presidency conducted intensive work in increasing the functionality of Points of Single Contact (implementation of the provisions of the services directive), and concerning the information point on Central Registration and Information on Economic Activity (CEIDG).

The Presidency actively participated in the work on the further implementation of initiatives concerning the Small Business Act (SBA), including ones related to greater access for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to markets and venture capital funds. Presentation of new communications from the European Commission concerning among others the internationalisation of SMEs found its reflection in the conclusions of the Competitiveness Council regarding the flagship initiatives on industrial policy adopted on 5 December 2011 – strengthening of implementation of industrial policy in the EU. On 17 and 18 October 2011, the Presidency co-organised a conference on the ‘Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs’ European initiative. Moreover, the Ministry of Economy became involved in the work of the network of SME Plenipotentiaries.

As part of the reduction of administrative burden on small and medium-size enterprises in the EU, the Presidency achieved a compromise with the European Parliament in the 2nd reading concerning the draft change of the Fourth Council Directive 78/660/EEC on the annual accounts of certain types of companies as regards micro-entities. The European Parliament adopted its position at the plenary session on 13 December 2011, while the EU Council should formally adopt the draft at one of the first sessions in 2012.

Establishment of a cheap and easily accessible patent system was one of the priorities of the Presidency in the area of competition. Aiming at closing work on the system of unitary patent protection, continuing for over 30 years, the Presidency brought about an agreement on a part of the patent package, namely a proposal for a regulation establishing a unitary patent protection system and regulation concerning language solutions in unitary patent protection. On December 5, 2011, the session of the Competitiveness Council failed to achieve agreement regarding the last element of the package, namely the intergovernmental agreement regarding the Single Patent Court. Despite the success in aligning many of its elements, negotiations were stymied due to the lack of consensus concerning the situation of the seat of the Central Division of the Court of First Instance.

Despite the lack of agreement on the seat of the central branch of the Single Patent Court in the Council, the European Parliament saw no obstacles to adopting the compromise worked out with the Polish Presidency in the Committee on Legal Affairs (JURI). Nevertheless, the plenary voting at the European Parliament will only be possible after the above mentioned issue has been agreed.

The Danish Presidency intends to continue intensive work on the patent dossier, so as to bring the works on the agreement to a close as quickly as possible. Most Member States expect completion of work on the package by the end of 2012, emphasising the need to maintain the political momentum, and treating the establishment of a uniform judicial system for education in patent cases a priority.

As part of the Smart Regulation initiative, concerning actions serving the improvement of the regulatory environment for entrepreneurs, conclusions of the Competitiveness Council were adopted regarding the Impact Assessment (complex evaluation of various aspects of desired EU legislation), in which the role of Member States in designing the impact assessments was reinforced, and a timetable for further actions was worked out. Moreover, the Presidency prepared a report presenting progress on the fulfilment of the mission to reduce administrative burden by 25% by 2012. A declaration of the European Commission regarding the further actions was obtained.

In the context of ensuring greater transparency for business, the Presidency conducted work on the motion regarding the establishment of a legal framework making it possible to combine some business registers. During the Competitiveness Council on 5 December 2011,
the Presidency gained acceptance of the general approach to the project. The directive will allow quick and cheap access to credible information and documents regarding companies and their branches situated in other Member States, deposited in trade registers of the Member States. Therefore, it should encourage entrepreneurs to enter into transactions with entities in other Member States, and to contribute in this way to the further development of the EU internal market. Moreover, the directive will also streamline exchange of information between the registers of merging companies from various EU states.

At the working level, the Polish Presidency began and advanced the process of negotiation of a proposal for a regulation regarding the Internal Market Information System (IMI) in line with assumptions. The following issues remain to be solved: delegated acts, participation of non-EU states and external actors in the exchange of information through the IMI system, and the questions of protecting personal data.

Due to the European Commission delaying the presentation of a draft legislation regarding service concessions (which did not take place until 20 December 2011), it was impossible to start work in the working group on public procurement. The work will be begun by the Danish Presidency. Devoted to public procurement, however, was one of the workshops (improving functioning of EU public procurement legislation) during the Single Market Forum. Moreover, on 2 December 2011, the Presidency organised an international conference on sustainable public procurement in Warsaw. The goal behind the conference was promotion of environmental and social aspects in public procurement.

Moreover, the Presidency caused the formal adoption of the directive on consumer rights by the Council on 10 October 2011. This important initiative, reinforcing the position of consumers and the market, is to be implemented in the national laws of Member States by 13 December 2013. In its assumptions, the new instrument is to contribute to the development of internal market, providing consumers with the comfort of performing purchases throughout the EU, without concern about the rights and appropriate protection, and increase their trust to trans-border online transactions.

On 29 November 2011, the European Commission presented a legislative package covering the directive regarding Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) and a regulation regarding Online Dispute Resolution (ODR). The package was presented to the Competitiveness Council on 5 December 2011. The new instrument is to provide consumers with an opportunity to resolve disputes without the need to go to court. The Polish Presidency began a debate concerning the proposal of the Commission at the working level.

Despite the plans, the Polish Presidency did not start work on the amendment of the Council Directive 90/314/EEC on package travel, package holidays and package tours due to the change of the Commission’s approach to the amendment. The legislative proposal is to be proposed by the Commission only in the second half of 2012.

In the field of intellectual property, the Presidency brought about the development of a compromise proposal of the wording of the regulation regarding entrusting the Office for Harmonisation in the Internal Market (OHIM) with tasks related to the European Observatory on Counterfeiting and Piracy. The text will be the subject to voting at a plenary session of the European Parliament.

The Polish Presidency began and strongly advanced work on the draft of a directive on certain permitted uses of orphan works presented in May 2011. The report from the progress of works was presented at the session of the Competitiveness Council on 5 December 2011. The work on the directive will be continued during the Danish Presidency, which will aim at closing them.

Moreover, at a working level, the Presidency conducted a presentation and discussion concerning the Green Paper on the online distribution of audiovisual works in the European Union, presented by the Commission in July 2011.

### 3.9.2. More competitive European economy

In reference to the communication of the European Commission regarding the ‘Resource-Efficient Europe’ Flagship Initiative, the Presidency conducted a debate at the informal meeting of ministers of industry held on 21-22 July 2011 in Sopot. Besides the subject of efficient use of resources, the debate also focused on more general questions of the effect of environmental regulations on industry. What became clearly visible during the discussion was the need to maintain balance between industry and environmental protection, so that actions related with climate policy do not override the competitiveness of industry. This found its formal reflection in the conclusions of the EU Council regarding the Competitive European Economy: Industrial competitiveness in the light of resource efficiency, which were adopted at the session of the Competitiveness Council on 29 September 2011. Referring to the ‘Integrated Industrial Policy for the Globalisation Era’ Flagship Initiative, the Presidency also carried out work to support enterprises. The results are the conclusions regarding the flagship initiative concerning industrial policy – Strengthening of the implementation of industrial policy in the EU adopted by the Competitiveness Council. The conclusions
– concerning among others the internationalisation of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), corporate responsibility of business, and normalisation – provide a clear message that industry is and should remain a key element in building the well-being of Europe.

The Presidency conducted extensive activity in the field of space policy, organising, among others, a seminar entitled Space Situational Awareness (SSA) on ensuring the safety of satellite infrastructure. Conclusions from the discussion were used to develop the regulation under the name Orientations concerning added value and benefits of space to the security of European citizens, adopted by the Space Council (joint session of the Competitiveness Council and the Ministerial Council of the European Space Agency) on 6 December 2011. The Regulation of the Council is highly significant, especially in the context of negotiating the future financial perspective, during which EU states will have to decide about the future of financing space programmes, including GMES.

As far as technical harmonisation is concerned, the Presidency started work on the proposal for a regulation regarding the role of standardisation in Europe. The first exchange of views at ministerial level took place during the session of the Competitiveness Council on 29 September 2011. The debate focused on the questions of the Presidency concerning three issues: the possibility of speeding up the process of normalisation, recognition of the ‘de facto’ norms in ICT for public procurement and EU policies, and efficient involvement in the process of normalisation of SMEs and other so-called weaker stakeholders. The state of the advancement of the work by the Polish Presidency should make it possible to adopt the draft in the first reading during the Danish Presidency. The regulation will allow more efficient use of norms in modernisation and reinforcement of the competitive edge of businesses.

What must be recorded as part of the Presidency’s activity in technical harmonisation are the works on the New Legislative Framework Alignment Package, which is to simplify and unify the regulatory environment regarding products, and guarantee that there are only compatible products in the EU market. To ensure cohesion of regulations, the Presidency conducted works on a package of nine sector directives as a whole, discussing individual questions (notification of units assessing conformity, duties of businesses) in the adjusted directives. The form of work on the package proposed by the Presidency proved effective, and will be continued by the Danish Presidency. The major delay on behalf of the European Commission, which presented the package on 21 November 2011 made it, however, impossible to achieve the significant advancement of works during the Polish Presidency as assumed earlier.

Significantly speeded up during the Polish Presidency was the work on the drafts of legal acts regarding motor vehicles conducted within the subgroup for motor vehicles in the working group on technical harmonisation of the EU Council. The Presidency concluded an understanding with the European Parliament in the first reading, and later, at a session of the Economic and Financial Affairs Council on 8 November 2011, adopted a proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and Council changing the Directive 2000/25/EC concerning the amending Directive 2000/25/EC as regards the application of emission stages for narrow-track tractors.

Moreover, the Polish Presidency continued the analysis – begun by the Hungarian Presidency – of the draft Proposal for Regulation on type-approval of agricultural or forestry tractors (T-category vehicles) and the draft Proposal for Regulation on the approval and market surveillance of two- or three-wheel vehicles and quadricycles (L-category vehicles). The efficient activity of the forum of the working group, and collaboration of interested parties made it possible for the Polish Presidency to agree on the drafts regarding the L- and T-category vehicles to the highest degree feasible, and to bring the work to the stage that allows initiation of the first informal talks with the European Parliament.

Adopted in the first reading, as part of legislative work for the chemical industry, was a proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and Council changing the Regulation (EC) 648/2004 regarding the use of phosphates and other phosphorus compounds in household laundry detergents and in household automatic dishwasher detergents. The proposal for a regulation will help to limit emission of phosphates used in household laundry detergents to waters, and consequently limit the process of eutrophication causing the excessive growth of algae and cyanobacteria in lakes and seas. By establishing uniform maximum caps for phosphates contents in household laundry detergents, the regulation will help the harmonisation of requirements for such products in the EU market, and liquidate barriers within the internal markets caused by the previous inconsistencies between the requirements binding in individual Member States.

A separate question was the works on the proposal for a regulation on explosive precursors. The draft is an answer to the problem of the improper use of certain, generally available chemical substances that allow the making of explosives at home. The Presidency embarked on negotiations with the European Parliament (three trialogues were conducted). The work on the proposal for a regulation will be continued by the Danish Presidency.

In the context of the 5th anniversary of adopting the RCEAH package, a conference entitled On the RCEAH Road was held in Warsaw on 23-24 November 2011. The RCEAH Regulation is one of the most ambitious
systems for managing chemicals, and aims at the minimisation of the negative impact on human health and environment by 2020. The conference served the exchange of administrative experiences gained both while working on the regulation, and during the last five years of operation of the RCEAH system, and also its future.

The Presidency greatly advanced the work on the proposal for a directive on recreational craft and personal watercraft. The document presented by the European Commission in July 2011 contains proposed substantive changes, and adjusts of the wording of the directive to the New Legislative Framework adopted in 2008 (mostly to the decision 768/2008/EC). Adoption the legal regulations mentioned above will provide better options to EU entrepreneurs (also Polish).

The Polish Presidency continued activity for the reinforcement of the visibility and competitive edge of tourism, in line with the priority ‘Competitiveness of the EU tourism industry. Diagnosis and recommendations for actions’. The main instruments for carrying out this priority was the organisation of the European Tourism Forum in Cracow from 5 to 7 October 2011, around the motto ‘Stimulating competition in the European tourism sector’. During the debate, it was agreed that improvement of the competitive edge requires especially the consolidation of the social-economic knowledge base, and ensuring all stakeholders with access to that database. Moreover, necessary are also activities for the innovation of tourism projects, and for the expansion of knowledge and skills of human resources in tourism. Moreover, activity promoting the knowledge of the economic and social significance of tourism also needs spreading. The Forum was accompanied by a meeting of the NECSTour network of European regions and a presentation of the ‘Code of good practices in sustainable and eco-friendly development’.

The Presidency also entered the debate concerning tourism at ministerial level, organising an informal meeting of EU ministers responsible for tourism in Cracow on 6 October 2011. The meeting was devoted mostly to the matters of promoting Europe as an attractive tourist destination in the markets of non-EU states, and especially of the BRIC countries. Signed during the meeting was a declaration of collaboration in the area, between the European Commission and the European Travel Commission (ETC). During the discussion, the ministers emphasised that tourism plays a significant social and economic role, holds a major potential that allows its further growth and establishment of jobs. They agreed that the promotion of the Destination: Europe slogan will improve the attractiveness of the continent and help to increase the number of tourists arriving in Europe. Promotional activities should be undertaken in consensus, with respect to Europe as a venue, proposing at the same time the shaping of the image of Europe as a collection of various sustainable and high-quality tourist destinations in the world. The need to support actions for easing visa requirements was also commented on, as it is currently one of the major barriers for the development of inbound tourism in Europe.

With the competitive edge of European tourist economy in mind, the Presidency organised (in collaboration with the European Cyclists’ Federation (ECF)) a workshop devoted to EuroVelo Trans European cycle routes at the Permanent Representation of the Republic of Poland to Brussels. In December 2011, the European Parliament adopted the regulation in which it calls for inclusion of EuroVelo into the TEN-T network.

3.9.3. European Research Area

In the area of research, attention during Polish Presidency was paid to various aspects related with the building of the sustainable and integrated European Research Area (ERA), from the idea of intellectual capital, via initiatives of joint programming and partnership in research and innovation, to the shape of a new framework programme concerning scientific research and innovation. The key event in the area was the first ministerial conference of the ERA: Intellectual Capital — Creative Impact.

During the Polish Presidency of the EU Council, discussion concerning the shape of the following Horizon 2020 framework programme in the field of scientific research and innovation continued. Emphasised very strongly while designing the strategic support programme was the request to use fully the intellectual capital of Europe, which provided the grounds for the formulation of two directions of intervention of priority significance for Poland, and referring to the work on the Horizon 2020 programme, which is the simpler and more harmonised character of the new program, and the synergy of the framework programme with the instruments of cohesion policy. The debate of ministers for research during the session of the Competitiveness Council on 6 December 2011 showed significant identification of the majority of Member States with the ambitions put forth by the Polish Presidency regarding the framework programme, including the simplification of rules and procedures, collaboration of the framework programme with the instruments of the cohesion policy to reinforce the potential of the regions, and support for small the research teams.

The main achievement of the Presidency in the area of research was the adoption of a package of legal acts regarding the Euratom programme in 2012–2013. Discussion regarding the Euratom programme 2012–2013
continued parallel on two planes, namely, the substantive and the financial, and in various contexts (research of nuclear energy, ITER Project, Multiannual Financial Framework of the EU, and the EU budget for 2012). In this way, included in the negotiations were various working groups, according to their proper scope, which ensured the cohesion of the activities conducted.

Countering the fragmentation of the ERA was discussed in the relation to the establishment of initiatives of joint programming of research, being at the same time the object of works of a high-level group for joint programming. Special attention was paid to questions of participation in the joint programme of countries with a low intensity of research, measured mostly via the volume of funds earmarked for research as a percentage of the GDP (a group to which Poland also belongs). The low level of activity of these countries poses the risk of incomplete exploitation of Europe’s intellectual capital, which may result on the one hand in a duplication of research of a strategic character, and on the other hand in a ‘brain drain’ to countries with high research intensity. This is why it was suggested, in reference to countries with a low intensity of scientific research, that financing of research conducted at supranational level could be made possible also from the EU funds, and especially from structural funds.

Moreover, adopted during the Polish Presidency, as part of the construction of the integrated ERA, were the conclusions concerning the recommendations of the European Commission regarding the 6 Joint Programming Initiatives (JPIs), i.e. More Years – Better Lives, Healthy and Productive Seas and Oceans, The Microbial Challenge – an Emerging Threat to Human Health, Connecting Climate Knowledge for Europe (Clik’EU), Urban Europe – Global Challenges, Local Solutions, Joint European Solutions, and Water Challenges for a Changing World. Adoption of the conclusions means launching of all the six initiatives, and in this way – building the grounds for collaboration of the interested states in the given area.

EU Competitiveness Council also adopted a political pact regarding the Council Regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 521/2008 setting up the Fuel Cells and Hydrogen Joint Undertaking.

Pointed to in the conclusions concerning partnerships in research and innovation, adopted by the EU Competitiveness Council on 6 December 2011 were actions concerning public-private partnerships and also public-public partnerships, at the same time, the scope of actions while building the European Innovation Partnerships (EIPs) was defined. In this way, the Polish Presidency became involved in work on the implementation of the Europe 2020 strategy, and especially the flagship initiative Union of Innovation.
3.10. Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council (TTE)

3.10.1. Transport

In the second reading, the Polish Presidency completed formally the legislative process connected to the proposal for a directive on the charging of heavy goods vehicles for the use of certain infrastructures (Eurovignette) and the directive facilitating the cross-border exchange of information on road safety related traffic offences. The ‘Eurovignette’ Directive will be highly significant for all EU Member States, and is an important element of the EU transport policy. It is aimed at limiting the negative influence of the road transport sector on the environment and gradual equalisation of fees for using infrastructure. The intention of the cross-border directive, in turn, is the establishment of an EU electronic network for exchanging data which will be used for the establishment of the identity of the owner of the vehicle so that the organs of the Member State, where an offence or crime was committed, could send notification about such an offence/crime to the owner of the vehicle that was material in its commitment.

The main priority of the Polish Presidency in the area of transport was a proposal for a regulation regarding the revision of EU guidelines regarding the TEN-T network. Despite the very late publication of the proposal for a regulation (submitted to the Council on 24 October 2011), the Polish Presidency conducted intensive work, and persistently pursued the attainment of the goal of embracing the general approach. The efforts of the Presidency resulted in the preparation of a compromise text of the proposal for a regulation. Yet due to the reservations of the European Commission and numerous Member States concerning the pace of work and lack of ability for national administrations to react quickly, the session of the TTE Council of 12 December was limited only to the acceptance of the report from the progress of works, and entrusting the Danish Presidency with the text developed by the Polish Presidency. The most important questions that remain to be clarified include: the question of subsidiarity and proportionality, the assumptions of the concepts of corridors of the basic network, administrative and financial burdens, the need for exclusions and greater flexibility in the question of requirements, and the manner of project management.

Moreover, at the session of the TTE Council held on 12 December 2011, the Presidency brought about also the adoption of a partial general approach to the proposal for a regulation regarding tachographs, aimed at improving the safety of road users. Due to the late presentation of the proposal of the European Commission regarding the directive changing the driving licence and its inseparable connection to the draft on tachographs (Art. 27), it was impossible to adopt the general approach in its entirety. Introduction of the new system will reduce the infringement of social regulations by drivers, which will help to improve safety on the roads, and contribute to the reduction of the social costs of accidents.

The Presidency brought about a transformation of the general approach of the Council, adopted by the Hungarian Presidency, and concerning the railway package I revision, into a political pact. One of the most important elements of the proposal for a directive is the unification of the method for calculating rates for access to rail infrastructure. The compromise solution guaranteeing the distribution of additional costs that will have to be incurred over time by the budgets of Member States was successfully preserved in the wording of the draft.

As concerns transport by sea, the Polish Presidency brought about the adoption of the general approach to the draft of the amended directive regarding the minimum level of training of seafarers during the session of the TTE Council on 12 December 2011. The change of the directive is primarily to ensure the quick entry into force of the provisions of the changed international convention on the requirements regarding the training of seafarers, issuing them certificates, and keeping watch (the so-called STCW convention). The transposition of changes of the STCW Convention to the European law will help to improve maritime safety.

The second dossier in the area of maritime transport policy which the Polish Presidency dealt with at the session of the TTE Council on 12 December 2011 was the Proposal for a Regulation on the accelerated phasing-in of double hull or equivalent design standards for single hull oil tankers (transformation). The Presidency brought about the adoption of the general approach in the question. The adoption of the proposal for a regulation will contribute to better protection of the maritime environment from pollution with oil.

The Presidency brought about the adoption of the conclusion of the Council regarding the communication of the European Commission entitled the EU and its neighbouring regions: A renewed approach to transport cooperation, which corroborates the significance of coherent transport connections for the strengthening of economic and political integration with the neighbouring regions. Moreover, a joint declaration regarding transport cooperation between the European Union and the countries of the Eastern Partnership was adopted at a ministerial conference on the Eastern Partnership (Cracow, 24-25 October 2011).

The Polish Presidency brought about the formal adoption of the decision of the Council regarding the accession of the European Union to the Protocol of 2002 to the Athens Convention of 1974 regarding carriage of passengers and their luggage by sea. The protocol envisages increasing the limits of liability, as compared to the Athens
Convention of 1974, and consequently the payment of higher damages to passengers who sustain harm. It envisages also the obligatory insurance of the carrier, and allows application directly to such an insurer for damages.

Moreover, the Presidency embarked on works to award the European Commission a mandate to open negotiations concerning the so-called Interbus Agreement. Due to the negative position of the European Commission and a number of Member States, there was no possibility of achieving the required unanimity on the geographic mandate, for which reason the issue was finally withdrawn from the agenda of the December TTE Council, and the work on the dossier was entrusted to the future Presidencies.

As far as air transport is concerned, the priority of the Polish Presidency was the airport package. Yet due to the major delay in its preparation by the European Commission (it was not published until December 2011), what could take place during the Polish Presidency was only the presentation of the package by the European Commission, and the preliminary exchange of positions among Member States. In the area of civil aviation, the works of the Presidency focused, therefore, mostly on external relations: the Presidency gave the European Commission a mandate to conduct negotiations concerning the High-level Agreement between the EU and European Organisation for the Safety of Air Navigation (EUROCONTROL) and a mandate regarding negotiations for the horizontal agreement on air transport with Azerbaijan. Additionally, in close collaboration with the European Commission, the Presidency brought about the exchange of letters concerning the conditions for waiving the fees for flights over Siberia between the EU and Russia, and monitored the development of the international situation in the context of including aviation into the EU system of trading emissions. Moreover, the Presidency organised a High Level Conference ‘Implementation of the Single European Sky and its extension to Third Countries’ in Warsaw on 28 November 2011, resulting in the adoption of the Warsaw Declaration.

### 3.10.2. Telecommunication and information society

A priority of the Polish Presidency in electronic communication was the negotiation of the joint position of the European Parliament and Council regarding the establishment of the Radio Spectrum Policy Programme (RSPP). The Presidency achieved an agreement in the matter. According to expectations, the Telecommunications Council defined its position regarding the RSPP in the first reading (13 December 2011). The European Parliament accepted the pact on 15 February 2012. In line with the agreements achieved during the triologues conducted by the Polish Presidency. The entry into effect of the Programme will first of all allow faster promotion of general wireless broadband access to the Internet, even in more hardly accessible territories with lower population density.

Devoted also to the question of the radio spectrum was the ministerial conference on the Perspectives for the development of the electronic communications market in the EU, held on 19-20 October 2011 in Warsaw. The conference ended in unanimous adoption of the declaration concerning the better use of the radio spectrum by the 35 states. It is open to new signatories.

Another priority in telecommunication was the amendment of the Regulation on roaming on public mobile telephone networks. The goal behind the regulation is to stimulate competition in the market for international roaming services. The Presidency brought about the exchange of views of ministers, based on the questions proposed, and also generated a report from the progress of works, registered by the TTE Council. The conclusions from the debate, as well as the report itself, will make it possible for the Danish Presidency to conclude work on this question. It is particularly important as the regulation on roaming currently in force will have expired by 30 June 2012.

Moreover, the Presidency worked out conclusions to the communication of the European Commission on the neutrality of networks, which were adopted by the TTE Council. The document focuses on managing traffic in networks so as to guarantee efficient use thereof, and ensure high quality services.

Due to the significant delay in the publication of the communication of the European Commission regarding the universal service in the telecommunications sector, the Polish Presidency conducted only a discussion among ministers during the session of the TTE Council. Nevertheless, telecommunication ministers shared clear political guidelines regarding further work on the dossier at working group level.

Despite the efforts of the Presidency, the TTE Council did not achieve an understanding regarding the European Network and Information Security Agency (ENISA). Further work on ENISA will be conducted by the Danish Presidency. Nevertheless, the result depends to a large extent on the ‘external’ determining factors (the concept of the European Commission concerning the policy of cybersecurity, and the course of the process at the European Parliament).

The Polish Presidency, together with the European Commission, organised the 6th European Ministerial eGovernment Conference on trans-border e-administration
services for Europeans (eGov2011), held in Poznań on 17-18 November 2011. The conference was accompanied also by an informal meeting of ministers responsible for electronic administration in European countries, and an exhibition of the most interesting ideas in the area of electronic administration services and applications.

Moreover, the Presidency participated at ministerial level in the 6th Internet Governance Forum, held in Nairobi (Kenya) in September 2011. For that reason, a Presidency Paper, agreed by all the Member States of the EU, was developed.

3.10.3. Energy

The most important legislation dossier regarding energy during the Polish Presidency was the proposal for a directive regarding energy efficiency. The work on the directive, based on the draft of the European Commission of June 2011, was assumed in the context of the Energy Efficiency Plan 2011 communication, and the conclusions containing a range of guidelines regarding the promotion of energy efficiency adopted by the Energy Council in June 2011. During intensive work at the working level, the Presidency followed the principle of increasing the flexibility of mechanisms and means proposed by the European Commission, at the same time maintaining the proposed level of ambitions to decide the flexible legal framework, making it possible to achieve the goal of increasing energy efficiency by 20% by 2020. For the Polish Presidency, much like for the Danish one, an absolute priority in reference to the directive on energy efficiency is its Art. 6 introducing the so-called systems that enforce saving of energy (at the level of 1.5% per annum), which can particularly be based on the mechanism of the so-called white certificates. The digest of works on the project of the regulation at the working level was contained in the report on progress submitted by the Presidency, which was adopted by energy ministers on 24 November 2011. In December 2011, the Polish Presidency presented the new version of the draft directive, being the result of six months of work. In line with the guidelines contained in the conclusions of the European Council of 9 December 2011, the agreement regarding the proposal for a directive should be reached by the end of the Danish Presidency.

A significant legislative project investigated during the Polish Presidency was the proposal for a regulation regarding energy infrastructure. Before the official presentation of the legislation drafted by the European Commission, the Polish Presidency conducted the initial discussion concerning the energy infrastructure during the informal Energy Council (Wroclaw, 19-20 September 2011). During the ministerial discussion, the support of Member States for the dynamic development of the European energy infrastructure, providing the necessary condition for the establishment of an efficient internal energy market to guarantee a high level of security of supplies, became clearly visible. Moreover, of special importance is the regional collaboration within the EU concerning the selection of strategic infrastructure-related projects. On 19 October 2011, the European Commission presented a proposal for a regulation on the guidelines for trans-European energy networks and repealing Decision 96/391/EC and Decision No. 1364/2006/EC. Its general assumption is speeding up the implementation of priority infrastructure projects by: concentration of resources, simplification of legalisation procedures, and the use of innovative financial instruments. During the TTE Council on 24 November 2011, the Presidency conducted the preliminary discussion of the project. A necessary element of the proposal of the European Commission regarding energy infrastructure is the idea of the new Connecting Europe Facility, which is to replace the previous regulation regarding the Trans-European Energy Networks (TEN-E). The Connecting Europe Facility will be inscribed into the new, integrated concept of financing energy projects, embedded into the currently negotiated Multiannual Financial Frameworks of the European Union for 2014–2020. Detailed information in the area was presented by the Commission also on 19 October 2011 in the form of a package composed of a communication regarding the package for the growth in the scope of integrated European infrastructure and a proposal for a regulation establishing the Connecting Europe Facility.

A significant achievement of the Polish Presidency regarding the internal energy market was the adoption of the regulation of the Council and the European Parliament regarding the energy market integrity and transparency (REMIT). The Polish Presidency took over the dossier from the Hungarian Presidency with the works being highly advanced, focusing on conducting a key political dialogue with the European Parliament. After the Polish Presidency conducted the triilogue, the European Parliament adopted the REMIT regulation in the first reading on 14 September 2011, and the Council adopted the draft on 14 October 2011. The regulation is aimed at the establishment of frameworks defining coherent legislation adjusted to the specific nature of energy markets, formulated for the efficient detection of abuse in the market and prevention of such abuse. The regulation envisages awarding more comprehensive rights to the EU Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators and its close collaboration with national regulatory organs to monitor electricity and gas markets, and to assure the undertaking of efficient and coordinated actions executing the regulations. REMIT will contribute
significantly to the building of an internal energy market, and to increasing its transparency, which will realistically influence the improvement of the competitive edge of European businesses, and a drop in the prices for individual consumers.

Moreover, the Polish Presidency began work on a Proposal for a Regulation on the safety of offshore oil and gas prospection, exploration and production activities. At the session of the Council held on 24 November 2011, the European Commission presented a draft that is the answer of the EU to the environmental disaster that took place in April 2010 at the Deepwater Horizon oil rig in the Gulf of Mexico. The goal behind the project is to limit the risk of major accidents while using submarine installations for oil and gas mining, and limiting the negative impact, also for the natural environment, should such an accident occur. The importance of the draft results from the fact that a majority of European gas and oil is acquired from the sea shelf. In November/December, the Polish Presidency conducted an intensive initial discussion of the draft at the forum of the working group on energy. Yet due to the delay in the European Commission presenting the draft of the regulation, most works of the project will take place during the Danish Presidency of the EU Council.

As far as the coordination of energy-efficiency labelling programmes for office equipment Energy Star mark, the Polish Presidency brought about the achievement of the understanding between the Council and the European Commission in the matter of technical and legal amendments of the clauses for the new agreement between the EU and the US, submitted by the US, and especially regarding the question of supervision of the market. This took place because there were doubts concerning whether the decisions made during the negotiations conducted by the European Commission did not go beyond the negotiation mandate granted during the Hungarian Presidency. On 29 November 2011, the European Commission initialled with the US the new, five-year agreement concerning the Energy Star. It is to come into force in the first half of 2012, after being adopted by Member States. Nevertheless, during the Polish Presidency, the European Commission did not present the motion regarding the decision of the Council on the conclusion of an agreement between the US government and the EU regarding Energy Star, and the motion regarding the regulation changing the regulation of the European Parliament and Council (EEC) 106/2008. For that reason, against the original assumptions of the Presidency, it was impossible to conclude a new agreement concerning the Energy Star programme. The negotiation of the position of the Council on the issue will take place during the Danish Presidency.

As part of work supporting the preparation of long-term EU strategy regarding energy policy, the Polish Presidency, waiting for the European Commission to publish the Energy Roadmap 2050 (which did not take place before 15 December 2011) organised a debate of Member States at the level of general directors in Bełchatów on 13-15 July 2011. The corollaries should be emphasised, among the general conclusions from the discussion:

1) three equivalent goals of sustainable energy policy: competitiveness, sustainable growth, and security of supplies
2) freedom of EU states to choose their own energy mix
3) energy efficiency being the cheapest solution favouring limitation of emissions
4) nuclear energy remaining a significant option in reducing emissions.
3.11. Justice and Home Affairs Council

The grounds for the priorities of the Polish Presidency in the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice were the goals defined by the Stockholm programme, and especially the actions for the protection of citizens and facilitation of their access to justice, related to issues of border management, migration and asylum policy, internal security, combating organised crime, and protection of the population.

3.11.1. Internal affairs

Poland fully implemented the priority of the Presidency concerning the strengthening of collaboration in combating drug-related crime. Adopted was the European Pact against synthetic drugs, along with the conclusions of the Council concerning the cooperation between the EU and Eastern Europe concerning drugs and conclusions concerning combating of new psychoactive substances.

Continuing work on the implementation of the Internal Security Strategy, the Polish Presidency efficiently completed – within the COSI (Standing Committee on Operational Cooperation on Internal Security) framework – work on the EU policy cycle for organised and serious international crime by assuming strategic goals and developing annual operating plans for each of them. Also completed during the Polish Presidency were a range of initiatives concerning the development of police cooperation within the EU, concerning among others the improvement of information exchange (monitoring of implementation of the Prüm Decision and the Swedish Initiative, development and use of SIS and SIRENE), combating of sexual abuse of children and child pornography in cyberspace, forgeries of money and especially of the euro, the phenomenon of crime against cultural heritage, improvement of security at sporting events, and establishment of the European Forensic Science Area.

There was an acceleration in the work on the Directive on the European PNR system (Passenger Name Record; data concerning passenger flights), and also on contracts between the EU and non-Member States concerning processing and sharing of PNR data: with Australia (being ratified by the Australian party), the USA (signed on 14 December 2001), Canada (negotiations are ongoing). A strategic debate on the TFTS (Terrorist Finance Tracking System) was conducted which defined the further directions of the work. All the planned conclusions of the Council concerning police cooperation were successfully adopted.

Following the 10th anniversary of the terrorist attacks on the USA, structural and legislative changes in the EU counter-terrorism policy were summarised. The Annex to the Handbook for police and security authorities concerning cooperation at major events with an international dimension was adopted.

A focus debate concerning the Community Civil Protection Mechanism and Civil Protection Financial Instrument was conducted. At the same time, conclusions concerning crisis communication were adopted, procedures were reviewed, and new directions for the development of crisis coordination in the European Union (CCA) were outlined.

COREPER II adopted the decision to extend the mandates for the operation of CATS (The Article 36 Committee) and SCIFA (Strategic Committee on Immigration, Frontiers and Asylum) Committees, together with the annex containing recommendations concerning streamlining the operation of both the Committees.

3.11.2. Migrations, asylum, and border management

The Presidency continued work related to the formal adoption of the proposal concerning Directive 2011/98/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council on a single application procedure for a single permit for third-country nationals to reside and work in the territory of a Member State and on a common set of rights for third-country workers legally residing in a Member State.

The objective of the directive is to establish comparable conditions for obtaining decisions that allow stay and work (single permit), and also concerning the rights of immigrants as staff. The draft refers to two principal areas: 1) the introduction, in principle, of the procedure of a unified work and stay permit, which would be acquired on the grounds of a single application and have the form of a single administrative decision 2) the definition of the scope of rights of employees from non-Member States in the Member States.

The final position of the Council in the first reading was adopted on 24 November 2011. The text of the directive was accepted without amendments at the plenary session of the European Parliament on 13 December 2011. In this way, the goal of the Presidency, anticipating the adoption of the directive during the Polish Presidency, was achieved.

Significant progress was achieved in the work on two acts of law referring to the management of legal migrations: a proposal for a directive on entry and residence conditions for third-country seasonal workers and a proposal on conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals in the framework of an intra-corporate transfer.
Together with the partners from the trio, the Presidency prepared a joint document concerning the Global Approach to Migration and Mobility communication presented by the European Commission on 18 November 2011, which aims at focusing the strategic discussion on the communication.

During the ministerial conference in Poznań on 4 November 2011, the Action Plan of the Prague Process (Building Migration Partnerships) for 2012–2016 was adopted.

Intensive work in the Council and a political dialogue with the European Parliament were conducted on issues related to the key questions of the Common European Asylum System (CEAS). Adopted on 24 November 2011 was the qualification directive (the first of the five WESA acts). The test of the new draft of the reception directive was greatly advanced. With the procedural directive, progress was successfully achieved in a number of difficult areas. Following negotiations lasting many months, the Presidency brought about the removal of the obstacle blocking the work on the regulation of the European Parliament and Council establishing the criteria and mechanisms for defining the Member State responsible for investigation of an application for providing international protection submitted in one of the Member States by a citizen of a non-Member State or a stateless person (Dublin regulation) by achieving understanding concerning the rejection of the clause of supporting transfers and replacing it with a mechanism of early warning, preparation, and management of migration crises. No negotiations were begun on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and Council concerning the establishment of the EURODAC system for comparing fingerprints to use efficiently regulation (EC) COM (2008) 825 [establishing the criteria and mechanisms for determining the Member State responsible for examining an asylum application lodged in one of the Member States by a third-country national] because to date the European Commission has not published a text allowing the services for the protection of law and public order direct access to the system, which is the condition necessary for Member States to start work.

Within the Integrated Border Management, the tasks laid out in the EUROSUR pilot were completed, and work was advanced to a level that made it possible to enter the practical phase of the project. Concluded in the working group was the second reading of the proposal concerning the change to the Schengen Borders Code, and also agreed were a large majority of the changes proposed by the Commission. Moreover, a change to the Frontex regulation was adopted.

In line with the guidelines, the following took place: evaluation of Schengen in the Nordic states (SE, FI, DK, NO, IS), of ES and PT in the area of SIS – SIRENE, and of Liechtenstein, which allowed completion of the process of Liechtenstein’s accession to the Schengen area. The expansion of the area took place on 19 December 2011.

An agenda for evaluation of Schengen in 2012–2013 was drawn up, encompassing the Member States that acceded to the area in 2007.

Concerning the accession of Romania and Bulgaria to the Schengen area, despite the conclusions of the Council of 9 June 2011, which confirmed that the states had fulfilled the technical requirements concerning the application of the Schengen acquis, no decision concerning the date of abolition of controls on the internal borders was reached due to opposition from the Kingdom of the Netherlands (and initially also from Finland).

The Polish Presidency formulated a compromise proposal of staged accession of Romania and Bulgaria, which currently provides the grounds for further negotiations.

Moreover, outside the six-month-programme of the Polish Presidency, a debate was conducted concerning the package on the strengthening of the mechanisms for the management of the Schengen area: 1) the updated proposal for a new Schengen evaluation mechanism, and 2) a change to the Schengen Borders Code concerning returning control on internal borders in exceptional situations. Agreement was reached in the matter of the further direction of work. In addition, an in-depth debate was conducted at the ministerial level on the strengthened political management of Schengen area within the Mixed Committee. The Presidency allowed the definition of the main elements and directions of the possible compromise within the package for strengthening Schengen management, which is currently being continued by the Danish Presidency.

3.11.3. Mobility

In the area of visa policy, the Polish Presidency managed to conduct efficient actions aimed at supporting the process of liberalising the visa regime with non-Member States, especially with the countries covered by the programme of the Eastern Partnership and the Russian Federation. The Presidency managed to complete the evaluation process of the results of the renegotiations of agreements on visa facilitation conducted by the European Commission with Ukraine, Moldova, and Russia, in this way making it possible to adopt the agreed texts of the agreements by COREPER II on 12 December 2011. Thanks to the actions that the Presidency consistently followed, the Council adopted negotiation mandates concerning the agreements on visa facilitation and readmission agreements with Armenia and Azerbaijan on 19 December 2011.
The efforts of the Polish Presidency led to acceleration in the process of technical modification of Council Regulation (EC) No 539/2001 of 15 March 2001 listing the third countries whose nationals must be in possession of visas when crossing the external borders and those whose nationals are exempt from that requirement. An active presentation of compromise solutions to achieve a qualified majority helped to establish a general approach in the most difficult question of the security clause, which was formally adopted by the EU Council on 13 December 2011.

Thanks to the efforts of the Presidency, it was also possible to succeed with the accelerated mode of publication in the EU ‘Official Journal’ of the decision of the European Parliament and Council establishing a list of travel documents which entitle the holder to cross the external borders of the EU and which may be endorsed with a visa, as well as setting up a mechanism for establishing this list, and as a result allowing the commencement on work of the new Travel Document Committee. Formally adopted on 25 October 2011, the decision (No. 1105/2011/EU) came into force on 24 November 2011.

The commencement of the discussion on the future of the Common Application Centres by the Polish Presidency became part of the broader amendment of the Visa Code envisaged for 2012. On 2 December 2011, the Presidency published a document entitled ‘Common Application Centres and cooperation in the field of the issuance of visas’, which provided the grounds for exchanging opinions between Member States and the European Commission.

Moreover, the Presidency also oversaw an agreement being reached with the European Parliament in the first reading of the proposal for amending the Visa Code concerning the use of transit airport visas, and embarked on the process of analysing the results of the negotiations on a visa facilitation agreement with the Republic of Cape Verde.

It is worth noting that during the Polish Presidency, on 11 October 2011, the Visa Information System (VIS) was successfully launched in the first region of its implementation, namely in Northern Africa.

On 12 December 2011, the Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2011 amending Regulation (EC) No. 1931/2006 as regards the inclusion of the Kaliningrad Oblast and certain Polish administrative districts in the eligible border area was successfully adopted. The amendment was published in the ‘EU’ on 20 December 2011. This was one of the main priorities of the Polish Official Journal’ Presidency.

### 3.11.4. System of justice

The main priority of the Polish Presidency concerning the justice system – the protection of rights of citizens in the European Union – was carried out in the area of court cooperation in civil cases, court cooperation in criminal cases, and business law in its broad sense.

As regards court cooperation in civil matters, within the activities aiming to simplify execution of property-related rights of citizens, the Presidency managed to conclude its work by:

- adopting a general approach to the proposal of regulation concerning inheritance and international inheritance, which will significantly simplify transborder inheritance cases;
- adopting political guidelines for further work on a proposal for changing the Brussels I Regulation, which defines principles of jurisdiction, recognition of sentences and their execution in the majority of civil and commercial matters;
- initiation of a discussion on the regulation concerning joint European regulation on sales during the informal JHA Council in July 2011 in Sopot. The need to conduct work on an instrument that would facilitate contracts being concluded within the single market at EU level was successfully adopted. This gave the green light to the beginning of work and presentation of a legislative initiative by the European Commission. Moreover, to prepare the work of the Council and in the working group better, the Presidency organised an international conference devoted to the future of the European Sales Law, held in Warsaw on 9-10 November 2011;
- completion of the first reading in the Council of two proposals of regulations concerning: a) matrimonial regimes, b) civil union regimes; work on a regulation on security on the debtor’s bank account was initiated.

Regarding court cooperation in criminal matters, the priorities of the Member States focused on two questions: reinforcement of procedural and non-procedural rights of victims of crime, and the reinforcement of procedural rights of people suspected or accused in criminal procedures. In this scope, the Presidency successfully conducted intensive negotiations of:

- a proposal for a directive concerning the European Protection Order in criminal cases (the so-called criminal EPO): the instrument strengthening the protection of victims against attempts of repeated acts by perpetrators of crimes, should they move to another EU Member State following the victim. The directive came into effect on 10 January 2012.
a proposal for a directive defining minimum norms in the scope of rights, support, and protection of victims of crimes – general agreement was reached
» a proposal for a directive concerning the right to information in criminal procedure, the objective of which is the introduction of guidelines – identical within the whole European Union – for disclosing information about the rights suspects and accused individuals are entitled to in criminal procedures: a compromise with the European Parliament was achieved, and the adoption of the instrument was formally acknowledged
» a proposal for a directive on the right to contact a lawyer in a criminal procedure, and the right to notify a third party about arrest, the goal of which is the establishment of common standards, uniform in the EU, concerning contact with a lawyer for suspects and accused individuals.
The Presidency also organised a conference devoted to ex officio legal aid, held in Warsaw on 5-6 December 2011.
In addition, the Presidency completed work on:
» the adoption of the general approach to the proposal of a directive regarding the European Investigation Order, the objective being the establishment of a comprehensive mechanism serving the acquisition of evidence situated in another EU Member State within a criminal procedure
» the directive on combating the sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children and child pornography, adopted by the Council on 15 November 2011
» a manual for the users of the European Criminal Records Information System (ECRIS), defining the procedure for exchanging information about sentences imposed on citizens of the EU.

Besides the above, and going beyond the programme of the Presidency, the Council adopted the recommendations for the European Commission concerning the shape of the programmes of financial support for administration of justice guaranteeing access to projects that are smaller yet of high quality and better enrolment discipline.
Adopted were the Council’s conclusions concerning the training of personnel for the justice system and the Council report concerning the review of the application of the Resolution of the Council and representatives of governments of the Member States gathered in the Council in the matter of establishment of a legislative cooperation network of ministries of justice of the Member States of the European Union.

Organised for the first time was the observance of the European Day of Remembrance for the Victims of Totalitarian Regimes, to be marked on 23 September.
During the summit, its participants signed the Warsaw Declaration, emphasising the need to cherish the memory of the victims of totalitarian regimes.

3.11.5. The external dimension of the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice

Referring to the external dimension of the AFSJ, the JAEX Group prepared a document with recommendations concerning the strengthening of the complementary character of actions conducted by the EU and individual Member States in relations with non-Member States, which contains suggestions for the European Commission on the preparation of a relevant report.
In terms of strategic cooperation with non-Member States, EU–US meetings of higher officials and EU–Western Balkans, EU–Russia and EU–US meetings at the ministerial level were organised.
Regarding the activities related to the Eastern Partnership, all the envisaged goals were achieved. The European Commission published a communication concerning cooperation in the area of justice and home affairs within the Eastern Partnership, and on 13 November 2011, the Council adopted relevant conclusions, pointing to priority directions in further collaboration with the countries of the Partnership. In September, the European Commission presented a report assessing the state of preparation of Moldova and Ukraine for visa facilitation, in line with the Action Plans on visa liberalisation.
A proposal for a conclusion of the Council on the collaboration between the EU and Eastern Europe concerning the combating of drug crime was adopted. An expert seminar was organised on ‘Models of management in the area of combating and predating people trafficking in EU states and the countries of Eastern Partnership. Potential for the development of co-operation’.
The Polish Presidency presented a document concerning the external dimension of EU policy concerning the system of justice, which provided the grounds for the discussion in working groups dealing with court collaboration in civil and criminal cases.
Despite the efforts of the Presidency, no compromise could be reached in the question of negotiating the agreement of EU’s accession to the European Convention on Human Rights.
3.12.1. Reform of the Common Agricultural Policy

Publication of the legislative act concerning Common Agricultural Policy for 2014-2020 by the European Commission on 12 October 2011 marked the official launch of negotiations in the EU forum. The Polish Presidency initiated intensive efforts of the EU Council focused on drafts of the Commission to be followed up by future presidencies. In line with provisions of the Treaty of Lisbon, final arrangements regarding the content of regulations will be made jointly by the Council and the European Parliament under what is known as ordinary legislative procedure.

At the meeting of the Agriculture and Fisheries Council on 20-21 October 2011, ministers held the first general political debate on guidelines for the CAP reform identified in the legal proposals. On 14 November 2011, ministers put the spotlight on direct payments. The Council meeting on 15-16 December 2011 was the venue of a debate focused on development of rural areas. The Special Committee on Agriculture staged a debate on the impact assessment of the reform submitted by the Commission in analytical documents appended to the legislative package. The first technical analysis of six out of seven draft regulations from the package presented by the Commission was completed in the working-group forum after approximately 20 meetings.

An initial political reaction to the Commission’s proposals for the CAP reform was expressed by the EU ministers of agriculture at the Council meeting on 20-21 October 2011. Following a presentation by Commissioner Dacian Cioloş, ministers presented their initial assessments of the proposal. In their opinion, draft regulations contain numerous solutions which meet expectations of Member States, but also provisions which raise doubts and will need to be amended. In the course of discussions, ministers devoted their attention to what is known as the greening of the Common Agricultural Reform. There were also many critical voices concerning further complexities embedded in CAP implementation instead of its expected simplification.

In their initial speeches, most ministers referred to the proposal for levelling of direct payments. On one hand, there was clearly strong dissatisfaction with the absence of levelling of direct payments demonstrated by ministers of EU-12 Member States, whereas ministers from the EU-15 Member States protested against lower support resulting from the payment-levelling scenario. Moreover, it was stressed that Member States must remain flexible in supporting selected profiles of agricultural production (maintenance of production-related payments). In most speeches, ministers criticised such new elements of the policy as support for active farmers or lower upper limits for payments.

In terms of support for rural areas (known as the second pillar), one of the most frequently raised issues was greater alignment of the second pillar of CAP to regional policy. In addition, quite a few ministers referred, in most cases in positive terms, to proposals for risk management in agriculture. Statements about the second pillar of CAP also touched on other issues, such as concerns over the new delimitation of Less Favoured Areas (LFA) or issues of special importance for individual Member States (for instance, support for irrigation – Portugal; environment, animal welfare and implementation of innovations – Sweden; support for females – Spain). At the same time, several ministers made references in their statements to the modified distribution of funds under the first pillar with the new allocation in the second pillar of CAP.

Ministers have also called for maintenance of intervention measures on agricultural markets as a safety net. Simplification of CAP was addressed in speeches of all ministers. Member States expressed an opinion that the legislative package requires a lot of work to make the reformed CAP a powerful tool for building a strong, competitive and sustainable European agriculture capable of facing global challenges.

Another much more detailed debate about the future of CAP was held at the meeting of the Agriculture and Fisheries Council on 14 November 2011. Its main theme was the Commission’s proposal concerning direct payments. The discussion was guided by questions devised by the Presidency, which focused on the structure of direct payments in the years 2014-2020 as well as distribution of direct payments. During a working lunch, ministers discussed the issue of greening. It was in the course of the debate when some Member States voiced their misgivings over the definition of the active farmer and selected elements of greening. On the other hand, proposals for small farms and young farmers were generally approved, whereas a number of delegations underlined the need for assuring greater subsidiarity of Member States in the application of this type of support.

At the Council meeting in December, the Polish Presidency conducted a debate on the Commission’s proposal concerning development of rural areas, which was continued both during the session of the Council and the working lunch. The debate was also driven by questions devised by the Presidency. Ministers expressed an opinion on implementation of new challenges via operations of the second pillar and commented on possible more detailed identification of instruments proposed under the rural development policy. Member States are inclined to agree with the opinion that the said policy should encourage innovations, investments in farm diversity and competitiveness. Urban development policy
should be a policy capable of facing the challenges awaiting the European agriculture.

In the light of provisions of the Treaty of Lisbon, decisions concerning CAP-related legislation are subject to an agreement made by the European Parliament and the EU Council under the ordinary legislative procedure. To address the need for tightening both institutions’ cooperation, the Polish Presidency proposed a series of open debates on the European Commission’s proposals for CAP reform until 2020 in the format of joint exchange of opinions between EP, EU Council and EC representatives. Since the Treaty does not force those institutions to cooperate at such an early stage, the initiative of the Presidency marked a truly innovative approach. The first debate attended by ministers of agriculture of EU Member States and members of the EP Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development was held on 7 November 2011 in the European Parliament. The discussion centred on the EC’s proposals contained in the draft regulation package published on 12 October 2011. The following debate conducted in a similar format but attended by representatives of agricultural organisations and non-governmental organisations, took place on 23 November 2011. The third meeting, held on 19 December 2011, involved representatives of scientific and research institutions.

During the Agriculture and Fisheries Council meeting of 20 September 2011, the Presidency initiated a dialogue dedicated to prospects for enhancement of the competitive edge of EU agriculture by application of renewable energy sources in urban areas and the role of agriculture in implementing ‘Europe 2020’ strategy objectives in the context of climate change. This debate was based on the results of the conference held on 16 July 2011 in Sopot and a discussion staged during a working lunch for agriculture ministers during the Council of 19 July 2011. Member States positively assessed the Presidency’s initiative as well as the discussion in the EU forum on the use of biomass for energy. Member States are convinced that agriculture can play a key role in implementation of EU environmental objectives, yet the main objective of agriculture, also under the new CAP, should be sustainable food production. By-products and residues of agricultural production must be used for energy.

It was stressed that long-distance haulage of biomass and its import from third countries have no economic or environmental justification. It was also emphasised that biomass imported into the EU must meet the same criteria as that originating in the EU. The results of discussions in support of developing renewable energy sources in rural areas will be harnessed to the EC’s further work on legislative proposals for the Common Agricultural Policy after 2013.

In line with draft regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Regulation (EC) No. 1234/2007 on contractual relations in the milk and dairy-products sector (known as the ‘milk package’), the Polish Presidency initiated efforts to achieve a final Council position and a stand on the European Parliament’s amendments. The agreement was reached during the three-sided meeting on 6 December 2011. Key issues contained in the compromise text include:

- more bargaining power for milk producers;
- Member States are entitled to introduce the obligation to make written supply contracts within their territories;
- Member States may stipulate minimum duration of the contract lasting at least six months;
- prospects for establishment of inter-branch organisations in the milk and dairy-products sector;
- monitoring quantities of purchased milk after abolition of quotas;
- quality cheese-supply management.

During the meeting of the Agriculture and Fisheries Council on 19 July 2011, the Commission issued a communication on the ‘Green Paper on information provision and promotion measures for agricultural products’. That marked the start of a debate on altered terms and conditions defining these measures. It was an extremely important issue for the Polish Presidency, as promotion of European agro-food products on EU markets and in third countries is essential to ensure European agriculture’s competitive edge. In addition to political discussions resulting for the ‘Green Paper’, the Commission also conducted public consultations during which all interested stakeholder groups, including consumers, producers, traders and representatives of administration were invited to join a discussion to identify frameworks of a fine-targeted and ambitious promotion and information policy. Such efforts are to promote the more effective use of the European farm and agro-food sector’s abundant resources to better meet the needs of European and global markets. Consultations were wrapped up on 29 November 2011 in Warsaw during a conference titled ‘Promotion of European Agriculture — A New Approach’. All those debates contributed to the adoption at the Agriculture and Fisheries Council of 15-16 December 2011 of conclusions reflecting consultations with all stakeholder groups, including those of the aforementioned conference and of the discussion held during an informal meeting of EU Ministers of Agriculture and Fisheries Ministers on 13 September 2011.

During Poland’s EU Council Presidency, work on the European Parliament’s and Council’s draft regulation on agricultural product quality schemes was completed at the Council’s working-group level. The Special Committee on Agriculture gave the Presidency the mandate to
initiate negotiations with the European Parliament and the Commission. A common position of the European Parliament and the Council regarding the main body of the document, including its key elements, was reached after three trilateral meetings. An agreement was also reached on solutions reinforcing and boosting the effectiveness of Protected Designations of Origins (PDO) and Protected Geographical Indication (PGI) as well as maintenance and optimisation of the Traditional Guaranteed Speciality (TGS) scheme, and development of the final version of a new definition of mountain farming product. The dossier was handed over to the Danish Presidency for further proceedings.

Four regulations designed to simplify the Common Agricultural Policy through the repeal of superfluous legal acts were adopted during the Council meeting on 20-21 October 2011 and confirmed by an agreement with the European Parliament. Consequently, EU legislation on agriculture was ‘cleansed’ of 46 Council and EP legal acts which no longer had any practical application but had nevertheless remained on the books.

Simplification of the CAP was a regular talking point of debates coinciding with discussions of the CAP reform package to 2020.

In addition to priorities defined in the Presidency agenda, another important topic addressed by the Agriculture and Fisheries Council was the future of the Food Distribution Programme for the EU’s Most Disadvantaged. The Polish Presidency introduced that theme to the agenda of Council meetings on 20 September, 20-21 October and 14 November 2011. Such intensified efforts reflected the difficulty in achieving a compromise. The Presidency saw the programme as its priority, as it was convinced that in light of Europe’s current high unemployment and widespread social exclusion solidarity with the most disadvantaged people must be demonstrated and efficient continuity of the scheme must be ensured at least in 2012 and 2013. Programme-oriented initiatives of the Presidency contributed to a motion presented by the EC on 3 October 2011 which contained two major departures from the previous version. It allowed for acquisition of goods essential for programme implementation on the market and abolished the co-financing requirement.

The deadlock produced by the inability of ministers to reach a common position due to the blocking minority opposed to the idea of continuing the scheme for another two years, was not broken until the 14 November 2011 and officially confirmed at the Council meeting of 15 December 2011.

### 3.12.2. The Common Fisheries Policy reform

The Polish Presidency conducted the first debate on the future of the Common Fisheries Policy reform in the Council forum on 19 July 2011. Before ministers exchanged their views, the Commission presented assumptions of the reform and stated that the Common Fisheries Policy reform was meant to ensure sustainable exploitation of living marine resources whilst striving to achieve robust economic performance, inclusive growth and enhanced cohesion in coastal regions. In their initial commentary on the shape of the reform, ministers of Member States most often referred to the principles proposed by the EC with regard to the elimination of unwanted bycatches in fisheries, obligatory introduction of mandatory long-term fishing concessions, regionalisation of the decision-making process and assurance of adequate development conditions for aquaculture. The need of linking the reform’s objectives to the new fisheries-support fund for was also raised.

The future of the Common Fisheries Policy was addressed once again during the Council meeting of 14 November 2011, during which its internal dimension was also discussed. The majority of Member States stressed the significance of the Common Fisheries Policy’s internal dimension to international fishery cooperation as well as the significance of the EU countries’ bilateral agreements with third countries to sustainable marine-resource exploitation. Most Member States were in favour of devising provisions which would reflect key issues of the Common Fisheries Policy’s internal dimension under a new, basic draft regulation governing fishing activities.

In addition, during the Agriculture and Fisheries Council on 15-16 December 2011, the European Commission presented a new draft European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF). The EMFF budget for the years 2014-2020 is to total €6.5b, whereas the total envelope for fisheries and maritime economy is to amount to €7.4b (in current prices). That would include funds for partnership agreements with third countries and contributions to regional fisheries management organisations. According to the Commission’s proposal, the fund’s four main pillars of would comprise: aquaculture, fisheries, sustainable fishery, and integrated maritime economy.

A political agreement concerning 2012 catch quotas for the Baltic Sea was reached during the Council meeting of 20-21 October 2011, whereas the meeting on 15-16 December 2011 ended with a political agreement regarding three draft regulations fixing the fishing opportunities for 2012 for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks available in EU waters and to EU vessels in certain non-EU waters – separately for internal and external groups and
3.12. The Agriculture and Fisheries Council

a regulation concerning fishing opportunities in the Black Sea in 2012.

As a part of its current agenda, the Presidency dealt with issues related to fisheries agreements and related ongoing consultations with Norway, Greenland, Morocco, Mauritania and other countries. In addition, the Polish Presidency agreed a position for a variety of annual meetings of regional fisheries management organisations (i.e. NEAFC, NAFO, CCAMLR, ICCAT).

3.12.3. Veterinary and phytosanitary issues

When a draft regulation on the electronic identification of cattle and a directive on computer databases were submitted by the Council to the European Commission on 30 August 2011, the Presidency finalised an analysis of their content at the technical-experts level. Compromise texts were handed over to the Danish Presidency.

The Polish Presidency continued cooperation with the Commission on development of guidelines for the new 'Community Plant Health Strategy'. It is expected that draft legal acts will be submitted by the Commission in September 2012. Equally important was the summary of the 6th Session of 'the Committee on Phytosanitary Measures' as well as development of the EU position on drafts of the 'International Plant Protection Convention'.

In addition, the Presidency coordinated and built an EU common position on a long-term action plan on Community legislation pertaining to legal protection of varieties and co-participated in the preparation and implementation of a seminar held by DG SANCO entitled 'EU Plant Variety Rights in the 21st century'.

3.12.4. Food safety

On 29 September 2011, the EU Council passed a regulation of the European Parliament and Council on the provision of food information to consumers. To provide consumers with reliable product information, the regulation standardises and simplifies regulations on food labelling, and curtails cases of overlapping Community regulations. In addition, to address consumer expectations, the regulation introduces mandatory nutrition labelling on all food products.

Thanks to horizontal agreements concluded by institutions on explanatory documents (correlation tables), a directive concerning vaccinations against Bluetongue disease was adopted. The European Commission stated it would not regard requiring such tables as justified.
3.13. Employment and social policy

Held on 7-8 July 2011 was an informal meeting of ministers for employment and social policy, which was the event that opened the Presidency in the field of employment and social policy. The main subject of the discussion was demographic challenges, and seeking answers to the question of how EU Member States understand these challenges and how they cope with them. The session of the ministers was preceded by a meeting of the trio with the representatives of European social partners and the Social Platform.

During the informal meeting of the ministers for family and gender equality on 21 October 2011, the Presidency invited the ministers to a debate and exchange of good practices concerning the legal solutions helping to align professional and private life – from the perspective of the maternity directive. During the meeting, the representatives of the Presidency Trio Poland–Denmark–Cyprus also signed a joint declaration concerning actions for the promotion of gender equality. The session of the ministers was preceded by a conference during which the report concerning the Review of the Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action: Women and the Economy, Reconciliation of Work and Family Life as a Condition of Equal Participation in the Labour Market, prepared for the Presidency by the European Institute for Gender Equality was officially presented.

The debates conducted during the two formal meetings of the EPSCO Council (on 3 October and 1 December) regarded the implementation of the Europe 2020 strategy. The discussion focused on the role of the European Social Fund (EFS) in the implementation of the Europe 2020 strategy. The ministers presented their experiences concerning the EFS, pointed to the priorities of the EU for the future and discussed how to improve the efficiency of operation and using the funds of the Fund. Among the factors emphasised was the need to simplify the procedures for using the EFS, reducing bureaucracy and simplification of procedures, inclusion of partners at local and regional levels, and greater flexibility of the EFS. The results of the debate were communicated to the General Affairs Council to be taken into consideration while negotiating the cohesion policy in the following EU budgeting period.

The second subject block was the implementation of the Europe 2020 strategy in the area of employment and social policy. The ministers analysed the first year of experience in implementing the strategy and exchanged opinions concerning expectations for the future. Expressed during the debate was the understanding of the need for financial consolidation and reduction of debt, with a parallel increase in competitiveness and employment. Despite the crisis, it remains a priority of the EU to increase employment and assure basic standards of social cohesion. The Member States paid attention to the fact that necessary are structural reforms of the labour market, a system of tax incentives motivating people to undertake employment, appropriate support for entrepreneurs, and systemic adjustment of education and training to the needs of the labour market in the area of skills. Moreover, the need to strengthen the role of the EPSCO Council in the area of economic management in the European Union was identified.

During a working lunch of the ministers, on the occasion of the EPSCO Council on 3 October 2011, challenges related to migration and mobility were discussed. The ministers’ discussion concerned various aspects of migration and mobility processes, accounting for economic, social, and cultural impacts. Tackled were questions of the current level of employment in the labour market and shortages in the labour force in the country, while the positive cases of policies addressed to migrating employees and mobility that go forth to meet the demands of the labour market were also presented. Furthermore, discussions focused on how to use the social, cultural, economic potential vested in migrations and mobility in future.

During the Polish Presidency, work continued on the proposal of the directive on implementing the principle of equal treatment among persons irrespective of religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation. The goal of the directive is introduction of the principle of equal treatment of people irrespective of religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation outside the labour market. The proposal defines the framework of the prohibition of discrimination due to the reasons mentioned above, and sets the uniform minimum level of protection within the European Union for people who have been affected by such discrimination. The proposal complements the existing community legal framework, which stipulates that the ban on discrimination linked to religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation applies only within the area of employment, work, and occupational training. Presented during the December EPSCO Council was a report from the progress of work on the proposal. It mentions that, despite the major progress achieved in fine-tuning of the clauses concerning age as a factor of discrimination during the Polish Presidency, there is a clear need for further work on the proposal.

In October 2008, the European Commission presented a proposal for adjusting the Proposal for a Directive amending Council Directive 92/85/EEC of 19 October 1992 concerning the implementation of measures to encourage improvements in the safety and health of pregnant workers, workers who have recently given birth and women who are breastfeeding. The main premise
of the proposal is the extension of maternity leave from 14 to 18 weeks, and also introduction of additional maternity leave in specific cases (e.g. multiple birth). This proposal also aims at the improvement of employee rights of the groups of women mentioned in the title of the directive. The position of the European Parliament regarding the proposal was adopted on 20 October 2010. During the work on the project, the Presidency tackled the subject at the informal meeting of ministers for family and gender equality in a broader context of aligning professional and private life, and also represented the Council in the plenary debate in the European Parliament, the course of which pointed to certain symptoms of flexibility and openness on behalf of the European Parliament. Accounting for that fact, the Presidency conducted a discussion concerning the key issues related to the proposed Amendment of the Directive 92/85/EEC, which is various options of extension of and payment for maternity leave, at the level of the working group on social questions. The Presidency presented a report on the progress of the work at the December EPSCO Council, showing that a flexible approach on behalf of the European Parliament may allow further constructive dialogue between the co-legislators and a possible future compromise.

The Presidency continued work on the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) No 883/2004 on the coordination of social security systems and Regulation (EC) No 987/2009 laying down the procedure for implementing Regulation (EC) No 883/2004. Its basic goal is to update the regulations mentioned above, so that they account for the changes in the legislation of the Member States on social protection and the changes in social reality that influence the coordination of the systems of social protection, and also so that they include solutions of the current legal problems that arose during their implementation. The proposal mentioned above also aimed at the elimination of the unfavourable outcomes that could be experienced by an employee/a self-employed person due to commencing and continuation of professional activity in various Member States. Finally, the Polish Presidency managed to work out a consensus and adopt a general approach to the above-mentioned regulation during the December EPSCO Council.

The Polish Presidency commenced work on a Proposal for a Directive on the minimum health and safety requirements regarding the exposure of workers to the risks arising from physical agents (electromagnetic fields). The need to revise the requirements contained in the directive is primarily related to the requirement to adjust the directive to new scientific data concerning electromagnetic threats and limiting the negative impact of legal regulations on the operation of certain sectors of the economy by proposing more flexible requirements concerning the protection of staff against the negative impact of electromagnetic fields. The intention of the Polish Presidency was to adopt the general approach, yet due to the dossier’s complexity and technical nature and the divergence of opinions of Member States and the European Commission – and, as a consequence, the need to continue work on the proposal – at the December EPSCO Council the Presidency only presented the report from the work in progress.

Also initiated during the Polish Presidency was work on the draft of a proposal concerning the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) No 1927/2006 establishing the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF). The goal of the proposed regulation was extension – to 31 December 2013 – of the divergences related to the possibility of applying for EFG funds in the case of citing the economic crisis as the grounds for such an application, and divergences related to the increased co-financing from the Fund to 65%. These divergences were introduced in 2009 and expired on 31 December 2011. In the discussion, the Member States presented diverging positions. Despite the effort undertaken by the Presidency, and presentation of altogether four compromise proposals, in voting none obtained the required majority. Due to the lack of a solution in the case at the level of the EPSCO Council on 1 December 2011 the Presidency decided to present the Council only with the report from the work in progress.

Moreover, the Presidency brought about the adoption of conclusions of the Council concerning:

» Facing demographic challenges: institutional cooperation of Member States concerning demographic questions and alignment of work and family life – the conclusions adopted a call for reinforcing institutional collaboration at the European and national levels and exchange of information concerning questions related to the influence of current demographic challenges (including the ageing of societies) on the developing practices of aligning working and family lives. The EU Council urged Member States to add the actions recommended by the conclusions to National Reform Programmes in reference to the second European Semester.

» The role of voluntary services in social policy; conclusions emphasise the role and importance of voluntary services for the reinforcement of common European values concerning social cohesion, solidarity, and active citizenship expressed in the treaties of the European Union. Moreover, they also point to the potential of voluntary services in the context of demographic challenges and implementation of the Europe 2020 strategy.
The adopted document is also a call to embark on concrete actions on behalf of the European Commission and Member States focused on the development of voluntary service in Europe and beyond its borders.

- **Ageing as an opportunity for the labour market** and development of social services and community actions; the conclusions referred to the phenomenon of ageing of societies as a process that will increasingly determine the functioning of the societies and economies of EU Member States. The conclusions include the obligation to adopt the common principles for active ageing in the coming year. They are to contribute, among other things, to a reduction in premature leaving of the labour market, use of the potential of the elderly in activities of a social nature, combating discrimination, and promotion of investment in lifelong learning.

- **A review of implementation of the Beijing Action Platform: alignment of professional and family life as the preliminary condition for equal share in the labour market.** The EU Council adopted conclusions in which it calls upon Member States and the European Commission to undertake activities for alignment of work with family and private life. Especially, it focuses on the following questions: care services, regulations concerning maternity and paternity leave, flexible conditions of employment, and equal rights for women and men. The conclusions of the Council were accompanied by a report prepared for the Presidency by the European Institute for Gender Equality.

- **Follow-up to the first European Semester and thematic supervision in the area of employment and social policies** (prepared in collaboration with the Employment Committee and the Social Protection Committee). As far as the evaluation of the first European Semester and preparations for the following one were concerned, the EU Council adopted the conclusions identifying the actions that should be undertaken by the Member States, the European Commission, the Employment Committee (EMCO), and the Social Protection Committee (SPC) in 2012. In the light of the document, the implementation of the National Reform Programmes, recommendations for the individual states, and obligations resulting from the Euro Plus Pact should account for opinions of social partners and programmes of fiscal consolidation. The advisory institutions of the EU named in the conclusions were called to support Member States and the European Commission in designing solutions favouring macroeconomic balance and preventing negative social phenomena.

### 3.13.2. Health

Implementation of the priority within the area of public health in respect of reducing differences in the health of European societies was reflected in the elaboration of three conclusions by the Polish Presidency.

The first of them concerned prevention, early detection, and treatment of **chronic diseases of the respiratory system in children**. Among the actions proposed in the text of the conclusion was acknowledgment of illnesses of the respiratory tract in children in national programmes of health and the development of a European system for monitoring of illnesses of the system. Another important subject tackled by the Polish Presidency was the question of early detection and treatment of **communication disorders in children**, accounting for the use of e-health tools and innovative solutions. Particular attention was devoted to the reinforcement of international collaboration in the area of communication disorders by the development of the European Reference Networks that allow exchange of knowledge and good practices, maintaining statistics, and gathering epidemiological data. The third question was the decrease in differences in health in the EU based on an organised campaign for the **promotion of a healthy lifestyle**. The proposals for action identified in the conclusions concern among others continuation and development of policies, programmes, and campaigns aimed at the promotion of healthy lifestyle and counteracting the main risk factors, that is smoking tobacco, excessive consumption of alcohol, improper diet, and lack of physical activity.

Additionally, the activity of the Presidency concerning health pertained to seeking solutions helping to combat the negative impacts of an ageing population. One of the health priorities of the Polish Presidency was to counteract neurodegenerative illnesses, including Alzheimer’s disease. The question of active and healthy ageing is strictly connected to the priority. Broadly conceived, the subject of ageing is a subject of the work of the Commission and Council in three areas: innovation and competitiveness, public health, and social affairs. The goal of the Presidency was to pay special attention to the increase in expenditure on research on diseases of the brain, including conducting and stronger coordination of scientific research within the entire EU, recognition of needs and gathering credible epidemiological data on the diseases and improvements of the potential for use thereof, improvement of care of patients with brain diseases that require an interdisciplinary, professional, and multisectoral approach integrating the area of help and social aid, establishment of additional services for better satisfaction of the needs of patients and their caregivers, solution of ethical problems caused by the illness,
promotion of proximity and counteracting social exclusion, and reinforcement of the legal protection of patients affected with these illnesses.

As part of the performance of the tasks in the area of public health concerning the prevention of brain diseases, neurodegenerative diseases, including Alzheimer’s disease, during the expert conference entitled ‘First European day of the brain. Ageing, stroke and Alzheimer’s disease – finding innovative solutions’, discussion focused on prioritisation of brain research, innovative diagnostics and treatment, and also organisation of care and social integration of elderly people affected with the diseases.

The Presidency began work in the working group on a new proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and Council on information to the general public on medicinal products subject to medical prescription and as regards pharmacovigilance. Further work on the proposals will be conducted by the Danish Presidency. The undoubted achievements of the Polish Presidency in the scope discussed here was having – in a short time – the European Commission commence work on the division of the proposal into two parts (separate regulations concerning information and regulations concerning the monitoring of the undesirable impact of pharmaceutical products), which will make it possible to efficiently finish the work in the Council on the regulations concerning supervision of safety of pharmacotherapy and a judicious approach to the question of further work on regulations concerning information on prescription drugs.


A further important point on the agenda of the session of the Council was the exchange of views by ministers of health concerning the proposal concerning the Resolution of the European Parliament and the Council on the establishment of the ‘Health for economic growth’ programme for the years 2014–2020 and emphasising the connection between the state of health of EU citizens and economic growth.

The priority of reducing differences in health between EU states became the leading subject of the ministerial conference in Poznań entitled ‘Solidarity in Health – Closing the health gap between European Union states’. Among the topics discussed during the conference were the reasons for differences in the state of health of populations of EU Member States and health problems present in the individual states, and the ensuing challenges for the authors of health policies. The delegations agreed that actions for the promotion of health and reduction of health differences must be intensified and attention must focus on the differences in health between Member States and within them as well as between various regions and social groups in the EU. Also noticed was a need for better use of the available data and comparative data, as well as information about unhealthy lifestyles, conditions determining the state of health, and non-infectious chronic diseases. This information should be acquired from the already operating permanent health monitoring systems or systems that could be implemented at EU level.

### 3.13.3. Consumer protection

The Polish Presidency planned to initiate work on the Consumer Policy Strategy, which will define the challenges of the EU in the scope of consumer protection in 2014–2020. The document was accounted for in the plans of the work of the European Commission for 2011; nevertheless, work on the proposal was delayed as the European Commission intends to change the formula of the documents and introduce changes both in the substance-related layer and in the way in which work on its preparation is performed. According to the Work Programme of the European Commission for 2012, the document is to be adopted in the second quarter of 2012 with the name European Consumer Agenda.

As far as strengthening of cooperation in the area of protection and enforcement of consumer rights are concerned, planned during the Polish Presidency was the continuation of negotiations conducted by the European Commission involving agreements between the European Union and the United States, and concerning the enforcement of consumer protection law, general product safety and information exchange. These plans, however, were not completed, as the European Commission informed that in the question of enforcement of the right to consumer protection the problem of personal data protection still remains unsolved, and focused attention on the fact that there are political factors influencing the lack of progress in the negotiations. In reference to the understanding on the cooperation concerning general
product safety and information exchange, the work was suspended due to the lack of possibility of negotiating equal access to information by its parties. Due to the internal regulations binding in the United States, there is no possibility of ensuring EU Member States the same access to the information held by the American administration as the American side would gain through the RAPEX system.
3.14.2. Protection of biodiversity

The Presidency reached a difficult compromise and agreed the EU negotiation policy for the Conference of the Parties (COP17) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Durban (despite the major differences in the positions of the Member States, concerning among others the accession of the EU to the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol, and also the transfer and use of the excess (AAUs), adopted by the conclusions of the Environment Council on 10 October 2011. During the COP 17, held from 28 November to 10 December 2011 in Durban, thanks to the activity of the Polish Presidency the following goals could be achieved:

» adoption of the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol, in this way assuring continuation of the reduction obligations of the states after 2012

» agreement of the plan for reaching the new, legally binding global pact on climate protection, embracing all the parties of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, which is to be adopted no later than in 2015 and come into force in 2020

» adoption of the decision to operationalise the Adaption Committee for the Cancun Adaptation Framework.

3.14.2. Protection of biodiversity

The work of the Presidency focused on the continuation of work on the implementation of the EU biodiversity strategy with a view to 2020, and coordination of the national positions, reflecting the EU interests in the area of biodiversity, and connected to the implementation of the decisions adopted during the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity Nagoya (COP 10) and preparing proposals of COP 11 decisions. The Presidency made the Environment Council adopt, on 19 December 2011, extended conclusions to the European Commission communication concerning The strategies of biodiversity by 2020. The conclusions provide guidelines for the European Commission and Member States in respect of the implementation of the new strategy by 2020. They contain ambitious and specific remarks concerning horizontal matters and activities implementing six goals of the Strategy. Moreover, the Presidency achieved progress in the implementation of obligations resulting from the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), also including the so-called package decisions adopted during the COP 10 in Nagoya.

Additionally, the Presidency made significant progress in the implementation of numerous international conventions and agreements. During the first session of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), decisions concerning the principles of its operation were made and principles and procedures regulating the work of the IPBES platform were considered, while also discussed were the rules of its membership, functions of the plenary session, number of the chairs and their functions, and questions related to additional organs. The meeting was of a working nature, and its objective was to prepare decisions that will be made at the following plenary session in 2012.

At the 7th Session of the Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity (Montreal, 31 October – 4 November 2011) concerning the need to respect, preserve and maintain knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant for the sustainable use of biological diversity, a range of recommendations that will help in making ambitious and realistic decisions during CBD COP11 and regarding respecting and rejecting the traditional knowledge of indigenous and local communities in reference to biodiversity were adopted thanks to the Polish Presidency.

Moreover, the Presidency significantly contributed to the progress of work during the 10th session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), at which the most important questions concerning combating desertification were discussed, along with streamlining of mechanisms of financing and functioning of the Convention ( programme of work of the Convention for 2012–2013) and implementation of the 10-year strategic plan by 2018.

At the 10th session of the Conference of the Parties to the Bonn Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals two agreements concerning the protection of birds of prey and protection of sharks were concluded, with respect to the fact that these species cross the borders of state jurisdictions in their various life cycles and their protection therefore requires the concerted efforts of all the states in which the species live.

Additionally, the Presidency made significant progress in the scope of implementation of other international conventions and agreements. From 11 to 14 July 2011, in Jersey in the Channel Islands, the 63rd meeting of the International Whaling Commission (IWC 63) was held. The Polish Whaling Commission succeeded in agreeing a joint position of the EU – for the first time in the history of operation of the IWC – concerning the improvement of the principles of operation.

3.14.2.1. Process of sustainable development (Rio+20)

The Polish Presidency of the EU Council brought fresh dynamism to the process of establishing a common position of the EU and Member States for the Rio+20 Conference. The Presidency brought about the development of conclusions of the Council of 10 October 2011, being the first political position of the EU within the framework of preparation for the Rio+20 process – the conference aimed at the renewal of political obligations in the area of sustainable development. The conclusions adopted contained the political message of the EU and the Member States concerning the vision and expectations towards the first Rio+20 process and the results of the Conference. Additionally, a measurable effect of the work of the Presidency was the development of the contribution of the EU and the 27 Member States to the Zero Draft document and submission of it to the UNDESA by 1 November 2011. The document provides the grounds for negotiation of the final document of the Conference. This contribution is based on the political framework defined by the conclusions of the Council concerning the Rio+20, referring, however, in greater detail to specific questions, proposals of solutions, and options of reforms present in the global debate. A further result of the work of the Presidency was the development of the position of the EU and Member States to the position of the pan-European region for the Rio+20 Conference during the Regional Preparatory Meeting to Rio+20 within the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.

In Poland, the Presidency organised a conference on ‘Sharing Green Economy Best Practices – towards Rio+20’ with the participation of EU Member States and non-EU countries of key importance for the process: Brazil, China, India, the US, Japan, and other stakeholders, including representatives of international institutions and organisations (UNEP, World Bank), and Sha Zukang, the Rio+20 Secretary-General. The conference was held in Warsaw on 11-12 October 2011. The good practices presented at the conference were published on the official website of Rio+20 run by UNDESA, as a contribution to the global discussion concerning the Green Economy in the context of Rio+20.

3.14.3. Efficient use of resources

Despite the late date (20 September 2011) of the publication of the Roadmap to a resource efficient Europe communication by the European Commission, a complement to the Europe 2020 strategy and the flagship initiative ‘A resource-efficient Europe’ – the leading initiative concerning the selection of appropriate goals and tools for its implementation – the Presidency embarked on work aimed at focusing further activities of the Commission concerning the selection of goals and instruments for their implementation, initially proposed by the European Commission in the roadmap, concluded with the adoption of the conclusions of the Environment Council on 19 December 2011.

The adopted conclusions were intended to define the directions of Europe’s actions aimed at achievement of a sustainable and competitive economy. An important issue tackled in the conclusions is calling the European Commission to make impact assessments of instruments of policies for efficient use of resources. Also significant is the reference to the indexes that the European Commission is to propose by the end of 2013, and the process of their development, which should take place with the participation of all the stakeholders (including business, NGOs, academia, and representatives of government).

3.14.4. Current work on the instruments of environmental protection policy

One of the priority activities of the Polish Presidency was the debate over the direction of the future environment policy. The Presidency brought about the development and adoption by the Environment Council (on 10 October 2011) of conclusions concerning the evaluation of the 6th Environment Action Plan. The Member States supported the continuation of the shaping of environmental policy by the quickest possible adoption of the 7th Environment Action Plan. The conclusions provide grounds for the Danish Presidency’s work on the next programme.

A great success of the Polish Presidency was bringing about the conclusion of legislative work on the proposal for a Regulation concerning the introduction to the market and use of biocidal products. The new regulation aims to replace the current European Parliament and Council Directive 98/8/EC of 16 February 1998. It contains solutions that fill the gaps in the directive and correct some of its provisions that proved unsatisfactory following assessment of its results. Moreover, the clauses of the proposal of the regulation fine-tune the principles for issuing permits for trading biocides, not described in the directive, and also contain a number of simplifications and explanations to ensure a more harmonised approach throughout Europe, reduction of costs for the industry, and greater protection of the environment and of the health of people and animals.

The other important legal act was the proposal for transformation of Directive 2002/96/EC of the European Parliament and Council on waste electrical and electronic
equipment (WEEE). The new version of the directive envisages that it will extend its scope, and consequently the obligation to manage properly all used electric and electronic appliances, with the exception only of strictly specified cases, which will strengthen the current level of environmental protection and health protection from dangerous substances and assure the retrieval of precious recyclable materials. Among the changes introduced for equipment producers was the possibility of nominating an authorised representative, without the obligation to have a base in all EU states, and harmonisation of the requirements in registering and reporting the activity of equipment producers in all the Member States. A further change was in the manner in which the level of collection of the used electric and electronic appliances was calculated, which moved away from the previous rigid level, thus making it possible to account for the variety in the electric and electronic appliances market in the Member States. Moreover, the directive also introduces a new requirement of organising collection points of small-sized equipment in large shops selling electric and electronic appliances. As a result, it will be possible to leave broken small electric and electronic appliances in a shop without the need to purchase new electric and/or electronic appliances, as has previously been the case.

Unfortunately, the Polish Presidency did not manage to complete legislative work on the SEVESO Directive (concerning control of major-accident hazards involving dangerous substances) because of the lack of agreement in the Council in two issues: the scope of the directive (category 3 part H2 Health Hazards in the Annex I), and access to the justice system. Unfortunately, the Polish Presidency did not manage to complete legislative work on the proposal for the Regulation of the European Parliament and Council concerning the export and import of dangerous chemicals (PIC), even though it continued until practically the last day of the Presidency. Despite the fact that it was impossible to make the Member States agree on the issue, the draft text of the act prepared by the Polish Presidency is practically ready for the trialogue, and subsequently for closure of the dossier in the first quarter of 2012.

Worthy of additional attention in the global context are the results of the 10th Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention (COP 10), which was held in Cartagena in Columbia from 17 to 21 October 2011. A success of the COP was the breaking of the long-term impasse concerning the interpretation of Art. 17 § 5 of the Basel Convention, which paved the way for the implementation of the so-called ‘Ban Amendment’, the ban on exporting dangerous waste from OECD countries to the states that do not belong to the organisation. The ban’s objective is protection of the latter states, which, as a rule do not have sufficient technological capacity to manage dangerous waste in a manner be safe for the environment and health of people. Agreed during the conference were a number of decisions concerning further management of activities of the convention, including the agreement on the working plan for the Basel Convention for the years 2012–2021, which defines the strategic goals and states and specifies the means of their implementation.
3.15. EU Council on Education, Youth, Culture and Sport

3.15.1. Competencies for Europe

A contribution to the development of the Eastern Partnership, in its capacity as a horizontal priority of the Polish Presidency, was the conference on the Eastern Dimension of Mobility (Warsaw, 6-7 July 2011), devoted to the question of mobility of students, teachers, academics, young people, and entities of the sport and culture sector. The conference was organised jointly with the European Commission by the ministries of national education, science and higher education, culture and national heritage, and sport and tourism. In the conclusions adopted, the participants urged among others for stronger participation of entities from partner states in current and future programmes of the European Union.

3.15.2. Education (including higher)

As part of the implementation of the Education for Mobility priority, the Presidency organised a range of events during which final documents were adopted: a declaration concerning the promotion of language learning and multilingualism for the closing of the conference on ‘Language competences for professional and social success in Europe’ (Warsaw, 28-29 September 2011), a declaration concerning mobility in the new generation of EU educational programmes being the result of the ‘Mobility as a tool to acquire and develop competences from childhood to seniority’ conference (Sopot, 17-19 October 2011), and also conclusions concerning increasing the efficiency of tools supporting the competences of young people adopted during the ‘Effective policies for the development of competencies of the youth in Europe’ conference (Warsaw, 16-18 November 2011). The subjects were also tackled by ministers for compulsory education at a conference devoted to the significance of language competencies for mobility in the aspect of lifelong learning and future employment (Gdańsk, 11 October 2011). All these events made a contribution to the development of the conclusions of the Council – adopted during the session of the EU Council on Education, Youth, Culture and Sport on 28 November 2011 – regarding language competencies that allow increased mobility, conclusions concerning the level of reference for educational mobility, and also the resolution of the Council concerning the renewed European agenda in the area of adult education.

As far as the Modernisation of Education priority is concerned, the Presidency brought about the adoption of the conclusions of the Council (28 November 2011) concerning modernisation of higher education, which emphasised, among other things, the need to undertake actions for increasing the number of higher education graduates, improving the quality of education, adjustment of graduates’ competencies to the requirements of the labour market, and also reinforcement of connections within the triangle of knowledge: education–scientific research–innovation. The most important events in this context were the conference on ‘Modernisation of higher education’ (Sopot, 23-25 October 2011), and the meeting of General Directors for High Education (Cracow, 11-12 October 2011). This subject range was also complemented by the conference on ‘Developing cooperation between VET, higher education and adult learning in response to the challenge of lifelong learning’ (Warsaw, 23 September 2011).

3.15.3. Young people

As part of the Youth and the World priority, the Presidency attained its assumed objectives, focusing on questions related to mobility and to the Eastern dimension of participation of young people. The Presidency held a systemised dialogue with young people. In the debate, which made use of social media, more than 12,000 young people took the floor. The conclusion took the form of the EU Youth Conference (Warsaw, 5-7 September 2011) with the participation of representatives of young people from all over Europe and countries of the Eastern
Partnership and Russia. Recommendations from the conference were a contribution to Council conclusions on the Eastern dimension of youth participation and mobility, adopted on 28 November 2011, which emphasised, among other things, the achievements of the existing programme supporting mobility, and pointed to the need for increasing access to visas for young people, mostly from the countries neighbouring the EU. In its conclusions, the European Commission also undertook to intensify work on the opening of the so-called Window of the Eastern Partnership Programme Youth in Action, which will take place in 2012. The documents developed by the Presidency provide the grounds for accounting for the neighbourhood dimension of participation and mobility of youth during the negotiation of a new generation of EU programmes in the area of youth, development of collaboration with the Council of Europe for joint actions serving better integration of young people from within and outside the European Union.

3.15.4. Culture

The most important achievement of the Polish Presidency was the adoption on 29 November 2011 of the conclusions of the Council concerning culture and creative competencies and the role in the building of Europe’s intellectual capital. The conclusions portray the role that these competencies play in the acquisition of competencies that are vital to lifelong learning, countering dropping out from school education, promoting employment, and supporting innovation. Moreover, the key role of creating and supporting creative partnerships between sectors of culture and education, research, and business was highlighted. The subject was discussed in detail during the ‘Competences in Culture’ conference (Warsaw, 18-20 July 2011).

Moreover, the Presidency concluded the work related to the establishment of the European Heritage Label, accelerating the procedure of adopting the decision of the European Parliament and Council in the subject, and also developing the decision of the Council concerning the practical aspects of selection of members of the European panel of Label experts by the Council. During the session of the Council, the Presidency conducted a debate among ministers of culture concerning the role of European statistics in the area of culture and the need to support their creation. Moreover, the Presidency paid great attention to the role and place of culture in external relations of the European Union, for that reason conducting a range of information activities concerning collaboration in the area of culture with the countries covered by the Eastern Partnership, and organising an informal meeting of higher officers of ministries of culture and officials responsible for culture in ministries of foreign affairs (Lublin, 12-15 October 2010) devoted to the role of public and cultural diplomacy in the European Union.

3.15.5. Audio and video issues

The Polish Presidency succeeded in the adoption of Council conclusions on the protection of children in the digital world, which focused on the need for promoting knowledge of safety on the Internet and development of digital competencies among children, parents, teachers, and guardians. The document also recommends the use of a range of technical means for more efficient protection of children against illegal and potentially harmful content.

Also adopted was a Council Decision concerning the signing of the European Convention on the legal protection of services based on, or consisting of, conditional access, which will allow the European Union and Member States accession to the Council of Europe Convention, increasing the efficiency of protection against piracy in services offered against payment, e.g. Pay-TV and Video-on-Demand (VoD).

During the informal meeting of the ministers for audio and video matters of the European Union (Wrocław, 9 September 2011), which was held as part of the European Culture Congress, the ministers discussed the digitalisation of cultural heritage and protection of digital resources, including the future of the European portal. The subject was also discussed during the Competencies in Culture conference (Warsaw, 18-20 July 2011).

3.15.6. Sport

As part of implementation of the ‘Development of new European initiatives in the field of sport’ priority, the Presidency confronted the subject of threats to the integrity of sport; sports policy based on economic facts; the social dimension of sport. These questions were discussed during, among others, the Meeting of EU Sport Directors (Gdańsk, 14-16 December 2011), the ‘From volunteering to leadership in sport’ conference (Warsaw, 13-14 September), and the ‘Equalising opportunities through sport as an element of social policy’ conference (Wroclaw, 18-19 July 2011).

A success of the Presidency was the initiation of dialogue with the broad sporting movement concerning fighting match-fixing, and adoption of relevant conclusions by the Council. The question was discussed in detail during the informal meeting of ministers of sport (Cracow, 13-14 October 2011) with participation of representatives from the world of sport.

Adopted on 29 November 2011 were conclusions on voluntary services in sport in the promotion of civic activity...
and the resolution of the Council concerning the representations of EU Member States in the Founding Council of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) and coordination of the position of EU Member States before WADA sessions.
4. The image and the evaluation of the Presidency in Poland and abroad
In January 2012, teamed up with Burson-Marsteller consulting agency, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs distributed online questionnaires to Commissioner’s cabinets and over 2,000 Poles employed by European institutions to obtain feedback about the perception of the Polish Presidency by the above audiences. In addition, informal in-depth telephone surveys were conducted with six leading journalists specialising in EU affairs.

The two first respondent groups highly evaluated the Polish Presidency (over 75% of answers), praising good communication, leadership and cooperation with EU institutions.

Respondents indicated that strong points of the Polish Presidency included promotion of Poland and Polish design.

In addition, the journalists appreciated easy access to ministers of the Polish government as well as timely and reliable information. The Presidency was recognised for the professionalism of its representatives, especially in the context of current political and economic challenges in Europe. Some respondents were very impressed by the fact that the parliamentary elections in Poland had no negative impact on the quality of its Presidency.

Critical voices mainly focused on certain logistic aspects and limited access to ministers during informal councils in Poland, but it should be stressed that media reiterate this point during almost every presidency.
4.2. The image of the Presidency in the European media

Commissioned by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Burson-Marsteller conducted a study of the image of the Polish Presidency in the European media which covered 887 media releases in over 60 titles and the leading blogs in five EU states and Brussels. The overwhelming majority of releases were published by media specialising in EU affairs or pan-European ones. These were mainly Agence Europe, Europolitics, EurActiv, EUObserver, and European Voice, while several key features were also published by The Wall Street Journal Europe and The International Herald Tribune.

The Presidency received little publicity from the national media – the graph below depicts figures on the number of releases in German, French, British, Italian and Spanish media versus media specialising in EU issues. The Polish Presidency was mainly publicised around its inauguration in July and during intensification of programming efforts in October and November. Coverage was dominated by neutral and positive reports. There were also several critical publications, yet these were isolated cases which failed to form a wider trend.

Most frequently commented topics during the Polish Presidency included the crisis in the Eurozone, Ukraine in the context of the arrest of the former Ukrainian PM Yulia Tymoshenko, the Eastern Partnership, the six-pack, the Durban summit, the speech of PM Donald Tusk at the European Parliament and the speech given by Foreign Minister Sikorski in Berlin.


The Presidency organised four study visits for European media representatives that focused on key themes and events of the Presidency (inauguration/political agenda, EU budget, Eastern Partnership summit, cohesion policy).

A valuable element of the European media study is the gap analysis which compares the presidency’s message highlighting its priorities versus the efficiency of its reach to the media and the public (read more about it in chapter 2.5.12. Public diplomacy and cooperation with the media). It confirms the limited role of the Presidency within the frameworks of the post-Lisbon institutional system – the PM and Ministers were frequently quoted, but media rarely made direct references to the Presidency.

On the other hand, it is a success that media wrote about priority issues from the perspective of the Polish Presidency (Eastern Partnership, economic growth, Multiannual Financial Framework, Single Market, energy policy and coherence policy), despite the fact that they did not always highlight the role of the presidency in this context. Such approach was mainly an after-effect of the economic crisis which largely dominated the EU agenda. Given such circumstances, little room was left for initiatives focused on education, health, agriculture or social policy – issues which mainly captured the attention of specialist titles, such as EU Observer and Agence Europe.

Graph 7. Number of releases in the European media
4.3. The image of the Presidency in the Polish media

Commissioned by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Burson-Marsteller conducted a study of the image of the Presidency in the Polish media. From July until December 2011 there were 3,795 presidency-focused releases in the press and 3,921 TV broadcasts. The study covered over a thousand national regional, trade and specialist titles as well as key radio and TV networks. Key investigated words included overall assessment and positioning of the Polish Presidency, its organisation and logistics, presidency programme and priorities, Eastern Partnership, tourism and promotion of regions, cultural programme, patronage and sponsorship, promotion and media visibility, meetings and conferences, and human resources.

Every fourth release in the Polish media portrayed the Presidency in the positive light. Coverage was dominated by neutral news-oriented reports. Negative coverage accounted for merely 7% of all releases.

The majority of press releases were medium-length articles and news releases. During the six months of the Presidency an average Pole had an opportunity to read 37 related news items. Substantive coverage of the Presidency was mainly published in July, and later in September and December, whereas non-substantive messages dominated over factual ones in October.

Most releases had a nationwide range, especially as regards television networks, whereas the remaining ones had provincial or local range. Most active media were those based in provinces which hosted Presidency meetings (Małopolska, Mazovia, Pomeranian and Greater Poland Voievodships), except for media from Lower Silesia which produced three times less Presidency coverage than their counterparts from the Małopolska or Mazovia Voievodships and even less than media from Kuyavian-Pomeranian or West Pomeranian Voievodships.
4.3. The image of the Presidency in the Polish media

The value of all Presidency-related releases in the Polish media totalled almost PLN 75m (the so-called Advertising Value Equivalent, AVE). This amount mainly covers TV broadcasts, although it was the print media that most frequently provided Presidency coverage.

In terms of topic selection, there was a visible focus on three themes: the Presidency programme and objectives, meetings and conferences and the cultural programme (68% of the total coverage). The first two topics were mainly visible on TV, whereas the press was partial to the cultural programme, mainly in the context of news about current cultural events.

The cultural programme was the most positively publicised aspect of the Presidency. The biggest criticism focused on the overall assessment of the Presidency,
its impact and effectiveness. This topic ranked fourth in terms of the number of press releases.

Cooperation with the Presidency has significantly boosted the image of cities which hosted key meetings, especially Sopot which enjoyed the second biggest media coverage after Warsaw. Altogether there were over 1,600 mainly positive releases about Polish cities during the period under discussion. Most of them were published in early July when scheduled meetings and events were covered. In terms of potential audience exposure, the statistics are as follows: Warsaw over 100 million, Sopot and Wroclaw 62-64 million, Poznań and Cracow 22-24 million.

Speaking of the Polish Presidency events that generated the biggest number of releases, ranking first was the inauguration of the Presidency (789 releases) with the speech of the Polish PM Donald Tusk in the European Parliament (415) coming second. The end of the Presidency captured the least media attention (309). Negative publicity accounted for only 3% of coverage in this category, whereas 25% was positive coverage. Another issue which captured major and long-term media attention was the association agreement with Ukraine, probably resulting from the fact that this event was scheduled for the final leg of the Presidency.

In addition, the report presents statements made by 350 individuals in 5,705 publications which usually addressed the Polish Presidency, whereas 49 of them were most frequently quoted (usually 20 times). The outright leader in this category was PM Donald Tusk, followed by President Bronislaw Komorowski, President of the European Commission José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Parliament Jerzy Buzek and Polish Foreign Minister Radosław Sikorski. Frequent positive feedback on the Polish Presidency was also provided by foreign politicians, including the leader of the European Parliament’s Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats faction, Martin Schulz, President of the European Council Herman Van Rompuy, Hungarian PM Viktor Orbán and the leader of the European People’s Party fraction in the European Parliament Joseph Daul. Key critics of the Polish Presidency included Polish MEPs - Jacek Kurski, Tomasz Poręba and Zbigniew Ziobro.

The report presents an in-depth study of the message conveyed by Polish Television channels which were the Host Broadcaster of the Polish Presidency. TVP Info, TVP1 and TVP2 mentioned the Presidency 1,212 times altogether, mainly in news headlines, as a part of coverage of meetings and conferences and rarely programming.

Graph 12. Media image of Poland’s biggest cities in the context of the Presidency

![Graph 12](image)

Graph 13. Number of releases focused on key events of the Presidency

![Graph 13](image)
issues. Ranking third in terms of the coverage was the cultural programme of the Presidency. Three most frequently publicised events correspond to the ranking of coverage in the Polish media (inauguration, PM’s speech at EP, the end of the presidency). The most active medium was TVP Info, with Polsat News and TVN24 coming second and third. Those three channels accounted for almost 30% of total TV coverage.

Out of 20 most active media, the biggest number of unfavourable features was published by ‘Gazeta Polska’ (over 50% of critical publicity). The most positive image of the Presidency was promoted by TVP2 (44% of total coverage).

Publications evaluating the Polish Presidency were mainly preoccupied with the significance and the actual impact of the Polish EU leadership on the EU policy. Initially, mainstream media made an attempt to identify areas which would enable Poland to make an actual difference by setting guidelines or playing the role of an impartial arbiter despite the constraints of the Treaty of Lisbon. It was also stressed that the Presidency may produce major benefits and open significant prospects for our country. On the other hand, titles critical to the government wrote that initiatives of the Presidency failed to make a difference in EU operations and mainly served as vehicles of the success propaganda during the election campaign.

During the next months, even impartial media became more conservative in their assessment of the role of the Presidency, what they somewhat justified with the challenging context of its term. Nevertheless, it was also stressed that considering limited decision-making capability and current developments, the Polish Presidency may be deemed to be successful.
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Annex No. 4.
Documents on the preparation and execution by Poland of the Presidency of the EU Council in the 2nd half of 2011, processed as part of the European Committee of the Council of Ministers and the Committee for European Affairs

Annex No. 5.
Schedule of speeches given by the Polish Presidency ministers in the EP committees at the beginning and at the end of the Presidency of the Council of the European Union

Annex No. 6.
Addresses by the Prime Minister and ministers of the Polish Presidency delivered on behalf of the Council at plenary sessions of the EP in Strasbourg and Brussels during the 2nd half of 2011

Annex No. 7
Calendar of meetings of the European Council, the Council of the European Union and other selected ministerial meetings during the Polish Presidency in 2011

Annex No. 8.
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<td>CATEGORY</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Informal Meeting of Ministers for Employment and Social Policy</td>
<td>7-8.07</td>
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<td>5</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Conference preceding the informal meeting of the Competitiveness Council for EU Research Area</td>
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<td>25-26.07</td>
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<td>28-29.07</td>
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<td>23</td>
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<td>Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development</td>
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**Notes:**
- **Event:**
  - I CATEGORY: Informal Meeting of Ministers
  - II CATEGORY: European Culture Congress
  - III CATEGORY: Informal Meeting of Ministers for Agriculture
  - IV CATEGORY: Informal Meeting of Ministers for Agriculture (Gymnich)
  - V CATEGORY: Informal Meeting of Ministers for Agriculture (SCA)

- **Location:**
  - MIM: Ministry of Foreign Affairs
  - CMT: Ministry of Economy
  - GFR: Ministry of National Defence
  - HSG: Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
  - Chancellery of the Prime Minister

- **Date Format:**
  - Day.Month.Year- Month.Day.Year

- **Formula:**
  - Central logistics
  - Venue only

- **Location:**
  - Sopot
  - Wrocław
  - Warsaw

- **Category:**
  - Central logistics
  - Venue only

- **Security:**
  - Informal Meeting of Ministers
  - European Culture Congress
  - Informal Meeting of Ministers for Agriculture
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<td>CFR / MIM</td>
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<td>MIM</td>
<td>III CATEGORY</td>
<td>Informal Meeting of EU Ministers responsible for Tourism</td>
<td>Ministry of Sport and Tourism</td>
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<td>Cracow</td>
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<td>Ministerial Energy Conference on ‘Competitive and integrated market as a guarantee of energy security’</td>
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<td>28</td>
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<td>CFR</td>
<td>IV CATEGORY</td>
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<td>MIM</td>
<td>III CATEGORY</td>
<td>Informal Meeting of Ministers of Sport</td>
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<td>33</td>
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<td>MIM</td>
<td>III CATEGORY</td>
<td>Informal Meeting of Ministers for Family and Gender Equality</td>
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<td>CFR / MIM</td>
<td>III CATEGORY</td>
<td>Meeting of Ministers of Transport on Eastern Partnership</td>
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<td>III CATEGORY</td>
<td>‘Adjusting the regulations of the States involved in the Eastern Partnership Initiative to the EU law within the scope of veterinary and phytosanitary issues as well as food safety and quality’</td>
<td>Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development</td>
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<td>36</td>
<td>3-4.11</td>
<td>2,3 and 4.11 - arrival 4 and 5.11 - departure</td>
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<td>CFR / MIM</td>
<td>III CATEGORY</td>
<td>2nd Ministerial Conference of the Prague Process – Building Migration Partnerships in action</td>
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<td>III CATEGORY</td>
<td>‘Solidarity in health. Closing the health gaps between European Union States’</td>
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<td>III CATEGORY</td>
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<td>CFR / MIM</td>
<td>II CATEGORY</td>
<td>Meeting of EU Ministers responsible for eGovernment</td>
<td>Ministry of Interior and Administration</td>
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<td>Integrated Approach to Development – a Key to Smart, Sustainable and Inclusive Europe</td>
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<td>European Competition and Consumer Day</td>
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<td>Legal aid in criminal proceedings in the European Union</td>
<td>Ministry of Justice</td>
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<td>48</td>
<td>12-13.12</td>
<td>11.12 - arrival</td>
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<td>IV CATEGORY</td>
<td>57th Meeting of Directors General responsible for Public Administration (EUPAN)</td>
<td>Chancellery of the Prime Minister</td>
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**List of interpretation regimes**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meeting</th>
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<tr>
<td>Informal meeting of health ministers</td>
<td>Simultaneous interpretation from six languages into six languages PL-EN-FR-DE-ES-IT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Informal meeting of employment and social policy ministers</td>
<td>Simultaneous translation from six languages into six languages PL-EN-FR-DE-ES-IT and simultaneous interpretation of parallel workshops</td>
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<tr>
<td>Informal meeting of environment ministers</td>
<td>Simultaneous interpretation from six languages into six languages PL-EN-FR-DE-ES-IT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Informal meeting of development ministers</td>
<td>Simultaneous interpretation from six languages into six languages PL-EN-FR-DE-ES-IT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conference preceding informal Competitiveness Council</td>
<td>Simultaneous interpretation from six languages into six languages PL-EN-FR-DE-ES-IT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Informal Competitiveness Council (COMPET)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Informal meeting of European affairs ministers and secretaries of state</td>
<td>Simultaneous interpretation from five languages into five languages EN-FR-DE-ES-IT</td>
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<td>GYMNICHT-formula meeting of ministers of foreign affairs</td>
<td>Simultaneous interpretation from six languages into two languages PL-EN-FR-DE-ES-IT into EN-FR</td>
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<tr>
<td>Informal meeting of transport ministers</td>
<td>Simultaneous interpretation from six languages into six languages PL-EN-FR-DE-ES-IT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Informal meeting of ministers of culture and audiovisual affairs</td>
<td>Simultaneous interpretation from six languages into six languages PL-EN-FR-DE-ES-IT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Informal Economic and Financial Affairs Council (ECOFIN)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eurogroup meeting accompanying Informal Economic and Financial Affairs Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>Informal meeting of EU defence ministers</td>
<td>Simultaneous interpretation from six languages into six languages PL-EN-FR-DE-ES-IT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eastern Partnership Summit</td>
<td>During plenary sessions - simultaneous interpretation from 22 official EU languages, languages of the Eastern Partnership states and Russian into 13 languages (6 EU languages, 6 Eastern Partnership languages and Russian)</td>
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<td>Informal meeting of EU tourism ministers</td>
<td>Simultaneous interpretation from six languages into six languages PL-EN-FR-DE-ES-IT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ministerial conference on energy policy: 'Competitive and integrated market as a guarantee of energy security'</td>
<td>Simultaneous interpretation from four languages into four languages PL-EN-DE-FR (including several parallel panels)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Informal meeting of sport ministers</td>
<td>Simultaneous interpretation from six languages into six languages PL-EN-FR-DE-ES-IT</td>
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<td>Meeting</td>
<td>Interpretation regimes</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>‘Development of the European Statistical System in the light of the Eastern Partnership - directions and strategy’</td>
<td>Simultaneous interpretation from three languages into three languages PL-EN-RU</td>
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<tr>
<td>Informal meeting of family affairs and gender equality ministers</td>
<td>Simultaneous interpretation from six languages into six languages PL-EN-FR-DE-ES-IT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meeting of transport ministers devoted to the Eastern Partnership</td>
<td>Simultaneous interpretation from three languages into three languages PL-EN-RU</td>
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<tr>
<td>‘Approximation of law of Eastern Partnership countries and the EU law in the area of veterinary and phytosanitary issues, food safety and quality’</td>
<td>Simultaneous interpretation from three languages into three languages PL-EN-RU (including several parallel panels)</td>
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<tr>
<td>‘Solidarity in health. Reducing health inequalities in the European Union’</td>
<td>PL-EN simultaneous interpretation (including several parallel panels)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th European Equality Summit</td>
<td>Simultaneous interpretation from six languages into six languages PL-EN-FR-DE-ES-IT (including several parallel panels)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6th European Ministerial Conference and Exhibition on E-Administration: ‘Borderless eGovernment Services for Europeans’</td>
<td>PL-EN simultaneous interpretation (including several parallel panels)</td>
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<td>Meeting of e-administration ministers</td>
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<tr>
<td>European Competition and Consumer Day</td>
<td>PL-EN simultaneous interpretation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Informal meeting of EU cohesion policy (regional policy), territorial development and urban development ministers</td>
<td>Simultaneous interpretation from six languages into six languages PL-EN-FR-DE-ES-IT</td>
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<tr>
<td>‘European Union and Southern Neighbourhood: new prospects for mutual cooperation in a changing environment’</td>
<td>Simultaneous interpretation from four languages into four languages PL-EN-FR-AR (including several parallel panels)</td>
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<tr>
<td>European Development Days</td>
<td>Simultaneous interpretation in PL-EN-FR regime with passive Spanish, Russian and German (including three parallel panels)</td>
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### Annex No. 3

**Selected events and meetings conducted in connection with the Polish Presidency of the EU Council**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Meeting</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Mission</th>
<th>Ministry</th>
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<tr>
<td>7th Ministerial Conference of the ‘Environment for Europe’ process</td>
<td>20-23.09.2011</td>
<td>Embassy of the RP in Astana</td>
<td>MEn</td>
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<td>Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG)</td>
<td>13-18.11.2011</td>
<td>Embassy of the RP in Belgrade</td>
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<tr>
<td>10th Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention</td>
<td>17-21.10.2011</td>
<td>Embassy of the RP in Bogota</td>
<td>MEn</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sessions and intercessions of the United Nations Framework Convention</td>
<td>1-7.10.2011</td>
<td>Embassy of the RP in Bucharest</td>
<td>MFA</td>
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<tr>
<td>WTO Ministerial Conference</td>
<td>14.12.2011</td>
<td>PR of the RP to the UN Office in Geneva</td>
<td>MEn</td>
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<tr>
<td>61st Meeting of the CITES Standing Committee</td>
<td>14-19.08.2011</td>
<td>PR of the RP to the UN Office in Geneva</td>
<td>MEn</td>
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<tr>
<td>29th session of the Executive Body of the Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution (EB CLRTAP)</td>
<td>12-16.12.2011</td>
<td>PR of the RP to the UN Office in Geneva</td>
<td>MEn</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meeting of the Working Group of the Parties to the PRTR Protocol</td>
<td>28.11.2011</td>
<td>Embassy of the RP in Bucharest</td>
<td>MFA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Working Group on Strategies and Reviews</td>
<td>11-16.09.2011</td>
<td>Embassy of the RP in Bucharest</td>
<td>MFA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting of Liaison Officers in Ukraine Headquarters of the Border Guard</td>
<td>12.07.2011</td>
<td>Embassy of the RP in Kiev</td>
<td>MIA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meeting of Liaison Officers in Ukraine Police Headquarters</td>
<td>14.09.2011</td>
<td>Embassy of the RP in Kiev</td>
<td>MFA</td>
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<tr>
<td>High-level seminar on the Common Security and Defence Policy of the EU</td>
<td>3-4.11.2011</td>
<td>Embassy of the RP in Bucharest</td>
<td>MFA</td>
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<td>Europe-Moldova Forum</td>
<td>29-31.03.2011</td>
<td>Embassy of the RP in Chisinau</td>
<td>MFA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conference on ‘Sources of growth in Poland , Denmark and Europe up to 2020’</td>
<td>26-27.05.2011</td>
<td>Embassy of the RP in Copenhagen</td>
<td>MFA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Economic seminar on ‘New market opportunities in Poland’</td>
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<td>Information on programme summaries of the Polish Presidency of the EU Council in the 2nd half of 2011, within the competence of the NAEA, removed from the on-line system **</td>
<td>NAEA/MFA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>249</td>
<td>20.02.2012</td>
<td>5th amendment to the Multiannual Program: preparation, support for and execution of the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union in the 2nd half of 2011 **</td>
<td>MFA- Government Plenipotentiary *</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Government Plenipotentiary for the Preparation of Governmental Administrative Agencies and Poland’s Presidency of the Council of the EU

** Document adopted in written procedure

*** Document distributed in CC procedure
**Schedule of speeches given by the Polish Presidency ministers in the EP committees at the beginning and at the end of the Presidency of the Council of the European Union**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date (2011)</th>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Presidency minister</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Presentation of the sector-related priorities of the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>12.07</td>
<td>Committee on International Trade (INTA)</td>
<td>Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Economy, Waldemar Pawlak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.07</td>
<td>Committee on Constitutional Affairs (AFCO)</td>
<td>Secretary of State for European Affairs in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mikofaj Dowgielewicz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.07</td>
<td>Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON)</td>
<td>Minister of Finance, Jacek Rostowski</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.07</td>
<td>Committee on Employment and Social Affairs (EMPL)</td>
<td>Minister of Labour and Social Policy, Jolanta Fedak, Minister of Regional Development, Elżbieta Bieńkowska</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13-14.07</td>
<td>Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI)</td>
<td>Minister of Health, Ewa Kopacz, Minister of Environment, Andrzej Kraszewski, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Marek Sawicki</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12-13.07</td>
<td>Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE)</td>
<td>Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Economy, Waldemar Pawlak, Minister of Science and Higher Education, Barbara Kudrycka, Minister of Infrastructure, Cezary Grabarczyk, Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Interior and Administration, Piotr Kołodziejczyk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.07</td>
<td>Committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO)</td>
<td>Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Economy, Waldemar Pawlak, President of the Office of Competition and Consumer Protection, Małgorzata Kransodębska-Tomkiel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.07</td>
<td>Committee on Transport and Tourism (TRAN)</td>
<td>Minister of Infrastructure, Cezary Grabarczyk, Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Sport and Tourism, Katarzyna Sobierajska</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.07</td>
<td>Committee on Regional Development (REGI)</td>
<td>Minister of Regional Development, Elżbieta Bieńkowska</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.07</td>
<td>Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (AGRI)</td>
<td>Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Marek Sawicki</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.07</td>
<td>Committee on Fisheries (PECH)</td>
<td>Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Marek Sawicki</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.07</td>
<td>Committee on Culture and Education (CULT)</td>
<td>Minister of National Education, Katarzyna Hall, Minister of Science and Higher Education, Barbara Kudrycka, Minister of Sport and Tourism, Adam Giersz, Secretary of State, Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, Piotr Żuchowski</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date (2011)</td>
<td>Committee</td>
<td>Presidency minister</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------</td>
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<td>---------------------</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 12.07       | Committee on Legal Affairs (JURI) | Minister of Justice, Krzysztof Kwiatkowski  
Secretary of State,  
Ministry of Culture and National Heritage,  
Piotr Żuchowski  
Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Economy,  
Marcin Korolec |
| 12.07       | Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE) | Minister of Internal Affairs and Administration,  
Jerzy Miller  
Minister of Justice, Krzysztof Kwiatkowski |
| 13.07       | Committee on Women’s Rights and Gender Equality (FEMM) | Minister of Labour and Social Policy,  
Jolanta Fedak  
Government Plenipotentiary for Equal Treatment,  
Elżbieta Radziszewska |
| 23.11       | Committee on Foreign Affairs (AFET) | Minister of Foreign Affairs, Radosław Sikorski |
| 5.12        | Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE) | Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Justice,  
Igor Dzialuk  
Secretary of State, Ministry of Interior,  
Piotr Stachańczyk |
| 19.12       | Committee on Legal Affairs (JURI) | Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Justice,  
Igor Dzialuk  
Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs,  
Maciej Szpunar (for the European patent) |
| 19.12       | Committee on Regional Development (REGI) | Minister of Regional Development, Elżbieta Bieńkowska |
| 20.12       | Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON) | Minister of Finance, Jacek Rostowski |
| 20.12       | Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE) | Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Economy,  
Maciej Kaliski  
Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Administration and Digitization,  
Magdalena Gaj |
| 20.12       | Committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO) | Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Economy,  
Grażyna Henclewksa  
President of the Office of Competition and Consumer Protection,  
Małgorzata Krasnodębska-Tomkiewicz |
| 20.12       | Committee on International Trade (INTA) | Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Economy,  
Hanna Trojanowska |
| 23.01.2012  | Committee on Transport and Tourism (TRAN) | Minister of Transport, Construction and Maritime Economy,  
Sławomir Nowak  
Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Sport and Tourism,  
Katarzyna Sobierańska |
| 24.01.2012  | Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (AGRI) | Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development,  
Marek Sawicki |
### Addresses by the Prime Minister and ministers of the Polish Presidency
delivered on behalf of the Council at plenary sessions of the EP in Strasbourg and Brussels during the 2nd half of 2011

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date (2011)</th>
<th>Purpose of address</th>
<th>Premier/ Polish Presidency minister</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6.07</td>
<td>Presentation of the Presidency programme</td>
<td>Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk</td>
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<tr>
<td>5.07</td>
<td>Participation in debate with Commission President J. M. Barroso on the Multiannual Financial Framework</td>
<td>MFA Secretary of State for European Affairs Mikołaj Dowgielewicz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.07</td>
<td>Council statement on ‘Cross-border exchange of information on road safety related traffic offences’</td>
<td>Minister of Infrastructure Cezary Grabarczy</td>
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<tr>
<td>6.07</td>
<td>Council statement on ‘Financial, economic and social crisis: measures and initiatives to be taken’</td>
<td>Minister of Finance Jacek Rostowski</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.07</td>
<td>Participation in debate on ‘Provision of food information to consumers’</td>
<td>Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Marek Sawicki</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.09</td>
<td>Participation in debate on ,European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders of the Member States of the European Union (FRONTEX)’</td>
<td>Minister of the Interior and Administration Jerzy Miller</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.09</td>
<td>Participation in debate on ,Energy market integrity and transparency’</td>
<td>Under-Secretary of State at the Ministry of Economy Marcin Korolec</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.09</td>
<td>Participation in debate on ,Better legislation’</td>
<td>Under-Secretary of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Maciej Szpunar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.09</td>
<td>Statement on behalf of the Council on the economic crisis and the euro</td>
<td>Minister of Finance Jacek Rostowski</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.09</td>
<td>Presentation of the Council’s position on the EU draft budget for 2012</td>
<td>Under-Secretary of State at the Ministry of Finance Jacek Dominik</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.09</td>
<td>Participation in debate on ,Closing the gap between anti-corruption law and reality’</td>
<td>Minister of the Interior Jerzy Miller</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.09</td>
<td>Participation in debates on: 1. The situation in Libya 2. The situation in Syria 3. The peace process in the Middle East</td>
<td>Secretary of State for European Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Mikołaj Dowgielewicz on behalf of High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Catherine Ashton</td>
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<tr>
<td>12.10</td>
<td>Statement on behalf of the Council on preparations for the European Council on 17 and 18 October 2011</td>
<td>Secretary of State for European Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Mikołaj Dowgielewicz</td>
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<tr>
<td>12.10</td>
<td>Participation in debate on ,The accession of Bulgaria and Romania to the Schengen area’</td>
<td>Minister of the Interior and Administration Jerzy Miller</td>
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<tr>
<td>25.10</td>
<td>Participation in debate on ,The European semester 2011: first lessons’</td>
<td>Under-Secretary of State at the Ministry of Finance Jacek Dominik</td>
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<tr>
<td>25.10</td>
<td>Participation in debate on ,State of play of the maternity leave directive’</td>
<td>Under-Secretary of State at the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy Radosław Mleczko</td>
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<tr>
<td>26.10</td>
<td>Participation in debate on ,Parliament’s position on the 2012 draft budget as modified by the Council (all sections)’</td>
<td>Under-Secretary of State at the Ministry of Finance Jacek Dominik</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date (2011)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>26.10</td>
<td>Address on 'Establishment of a joint EU resettlement programme'</td>
<td>Under-Secretary of State at the Ministry of the Interior and Administration Piotr Stachańczyk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26.10</td>
<td>Address on 'Public health threat of antimicrobial resistance'</td>
<td>Under-Secretary of State at the Ministry of Health Adam Fronczak</td>
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<tr>
<td>26.10</td>
<td>Participation in debate on 'Sexual abuse of children - children's rights'</td>
<td>Minister of Justice Krzysztof Kwiatkowski</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26.10</td>
<td>Participation in debate on 'Qualification and status of third country nationals or stateless persons as beneficiaries of international protection'</td>
<td>Under-Secretary of State at the Ministry of the Interior and Administration Piotr Stachańczyk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.11</td>
<td>Participation in debate on 'Climate Conference in Durban'</td>
<td>Under-Secretary of State at the Ministry of the Environment Joanna Maćkowiak-Pandera</td>
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<tr>
<td>15.11</td>
<td>Participation in debate on 'EU Accountability Report on Financing for Development'</td>
<td>Under-Secretary of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Krzysztof Stanowski</td>
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<td>16.11</td>
<td>Participation in debate on 'Situation of the Roma in Member States'</td>
<td>Plenipotentiary of the Government for Equal Treatment Elżbieta Radziszewska</td>
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<tr>
<td>16.11</td>
<td>Participation in debate on 'The open Internet and net neutrality in Europe'</td>
<td>Under-Secretary of State at the Ministry of Infrastructure Magdalena Gaj</td>
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<tr>
<td>30.11</td>
<td>Statement on behalf of the Council on preparations for the European Council on 8 and 9 December 2011</td>
<td>Secretary of State for European Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Mikołaj Dowgielewicz</td>
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<tr>
<td>30.11</td>
<td>Participation in debate on 'Accession of the Republic of Croatia'</td>
<td>Secretary of State for European Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Mikołaj Dowgielewicz</td>
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<tr>
<td>30.11</td>
<td>Participation in debate on 'European semester for economic policy coordination'</td>
<td>Under-Secretary of State at the Ministry of Finance Jacek Dominik</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.12</td>
<td>Participation in debate on 'EU global response to HIV/AIDS (in connection with the World AIDS Day)'</td>
<td>Under-Secretary of State at the Ministry of Health Adam Fronczak</td>
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<td>1.12</td>
<td>Participation in debate on '2012 budget: outcome of budgetary conciliation'</td>
<td>Under-Secretary of State at the Ministry of Finance Jacek Dominik</td>
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<tr>
<td>14.12</td>
<td>Summing-up of the Polish Presidency</td>
<td>Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk</td>
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<td>14.12</td>
<td>Participation in debate on 'Detention conditions in the EU'</td>
<td>Under-Secretary of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Maciej Szpunar</td>
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<tr>
<td>15.12</td>
<td>Participation in the address of the President of the European Parliament, Jerzy Buzek, in connection with the conclusion of the President's term of office</td>
<td>Under-Secretary of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Maciej Szpunar</td>
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Calendar of meetings of the European Council, the Council of the European Union and other selected ministerial meetings during the Polish Presidency in 2011

### July

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<tr>
<td>5 – 6.07</td>
<td>Informal Meeting of Ministers of Health, Sopot</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 – 7.07</td>
<td>Conference ‘Eastern Dimension of Mobility’, Warsaw</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 – 8.07</td>
<td>Informal Meeting of Ministers for Employment and Social Policy, Sopot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.07</td>
<td>Meeting of members of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Poland with EU College of Commissioners, Warsaw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 – 12.07</td>
<td>Informal Meeting of Ministers of Environment, Sopot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.07</td>
<td>Economic and Financial Affairs Council (ECOFIN), Brussels</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 – 15.07</td>
<td>High – Level Meeting of Directors General for Energy, Belchatów</td>
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<tr>
<td>14 – 15.07</td>
<td>Informal Meeting of Ministers for Development, Sopot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16.07</td>
<td>Ministerial conference ‘Energy use of biomass from agriculture as an important element of Common Agricultural Policy’, Sopot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18.07</td>
<td>General Affairs Council (GAC), Brussels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18.07</td>
<td>Foreign Affairs Council (FAC), Brussels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19.07</td>
<td>Agriculture and Fisheries Council (AGRIFISH), Brussels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 – 19.07</td>
<td>Informal Justice and Home Affairs Council (JHA), Sopot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 – 19.07</td>
<td>Conference ‘Equalising opportunities through sport as an element of social policy’, Wrocław</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 – 20.07</td>
<td>Conference ‘Competences in Culture’, Warsaw</td>
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<tr>
<td>20.07</td>
<td>Conference preceding the informal meeting of the Competitiveness Council on European Research Area, Sopot</td>
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<tr>
<td>20 – 22.07</td>
<td>Informal Competitiveness Council (COMPET), Sopot</td>
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<td>28 – 29.07</td>
<td>Informal Meeting of Ministers for European Affairs, Sopot</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>2–3.09</td>
<td>Informal meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs under the GYMNIC formula, Sopot</td>
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<tr>
<td>5.09</td>
<td>Conference on Corporate Social Responsibility, Gdańsk</td>
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<tr>
<td>5–6.09</td>
<td>Informal Meeting of Ministers for Transport, Sopot</td>
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<tr>
<td>8.09</td>
<td>Conference of Ministers of Economy of the Eastern Partnership countries, Krynica Zdrój</td>
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<tr>
<td>8–11.09</td>
<td>European Culture Congress, Wrocław</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.09</td>
<td>Informal Meeting of Ministers for Culture and Audiovisual Affairs, Wrocław</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.09</td>
<td>General Affairs Council (GAC), Brussels</td>
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<tr>
<td>12.09</td>
<td>Foreign Affairs Council (FAC), Brussels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11–13.09</td>
<td>Informal Agriculture and Fisheries Council (AGRIFISH), Wrocław</td>
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</table>
15.09 Ministerial conference ‘Ownership transformation in Poland – evaluation and plans for the future’, Warsaw

15.09 Economy Ministry ministerial conference on the 15th anniversary of Poland’s membership in the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, Warsaw

16–17.09 Informal Economic and Financial Affairs Council (ECOFIN), Wrocław

20.09 Agriculture and Fisheries Council (AGRIFISH), Brussels


22–23.09 Justice and Home Affairs Council (JHA), Brussels

22–23.09 Informal Meeting of Ministers of National Defence, Wrocław

26.09 Foreign Affairs Council (FAC) in the format of ministers responsible for trade affairs, Brussels

26.09 Formal lunch of trade ministers, Brussels

26.09 Ministry of Labour and Social Policy ministerial conference on the social priority ‘Social effects of the economic crisis: Short and long–term actions as part of anti–crisis policy’, Wrocław

28–29.09 Ministerial conference ‘Forestry for the climate and biological diversity’ together with a meeting of forestry and nature protection directors, Ryn

29–30.09 Eastern Partnership Summit, Warsaw

29–30.09 Competitiveness Council (COMPET), Brussels

October

3.10 Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council (EPSCO), Luxembourg

2–4.10 Single Market Forum (SIMFO), Cracow

4.10 Economic and Financial Affairs Council (ECOFIN), Luxembourg

5–6.10 Informal meeting of ministers for tourism, Cracow

5–7.10 Europejskie Tourism Forum, Cracow

6.10 Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council – transport (TTE – Transport), Luxembourg

10.10 Environment Council (ENVI), Luxembourg

10–11.10 Permanent Partnership Council EU – Russia in the fields of Justice and Home Affairs, Warsaw

10–11.10 Ministerial Conference of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy ‘Challenges and opportunities for employment in the presence of demographic changes’, Warsaw

10–11.10 Conference of EU Ministers in charge of Compulsory Education, Gdańsk

13.10 General Affairs Council (GAC), Luxembourg
13.10 Foreign Affairs Council (FAC), Luxembourg
13–14.10 Informal Meeting of Ministers of Sport, Cracow
17.10 Tripartite Social Summit, Brussels
17–18.10 Convention of the European Platform against Poverty, Cracow
17–18.10 EUROPEAN COUNCIL, Brussels
18–19.10 Ministerial Conference ‘Development of European Statistical System within Eastern Partnership – directions and strategy’, Cracow
19–21.10 ‘Towards better cooperation’ Eastern Neighbourhood Customs Cooperation Seminar, Cracow
20–21.10 Justice and Home Affairs Council (AGRIFISH), Luxembourg
20–21.10 Senior Officials Meeting of the Union for the Mediterranean, Cracow
20–21.10 Informal Meeting of Ministers for Family and Gender Equality, Cracow
24–25.10 Transport Ministers’ Meeting on Eastern Partnership, Cracow
27–28.10 ‘Adjusting the regulations of the States involved in the Eastern Partnership to the EU law within the scope of veterinary’, Cracow
27–28.10 Justice and Home Affairs Council (JHA), Luxembourg

November

3-4.11 2nd Ministerial Conference of the Prague Process – ‘Building Migration Partnerships in action’, Poznań
7-8.11 Ministerial conference ‘Solidarity in health. Closing the health gaps between European Union States’, Poznań
7-9.11 Ministerial conference ‘Planning for biodiversity’, Warsaw
8.11 Economic and Financial Affairs Council (ECOFIN), Brussels
9-10.11 ‘Common Frame of Reference’ Conference, Warsaw
10.11 Foreign Affairs Council (FAC) / Development, Brussels
14.11 Informal Meeting of Ministers for Equality, Poznań
14-15.11 Agriculture and Fisheries Council (AGRIFISH), Brussels
14-15.11 5th European Equality Summit, Poznań
17.11 Ministerial eGovernment Meeting, Poznań
18.11 Economic and Financial Affairs Council - budget (ECOFIN budget), Brussels
30.11 Foreign Affairs Council (FAC) / Defence, Brussels
21.11 Foreign Affairs Council (FAC) / Foreign Affairs, Brussels
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>21.11</td>
<td>Ministerial Meeting EU-US in the fields of Home Affairs und Justice,</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Washington</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22.11</td>
<td>EEA Council meeting on the margin of General Affairs Council, Brussels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22.11</td>
<td>General Affairs Council (GAC), Brussels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23-24.11</td>
<td>Conference commemorating the fifth anniversary of REACH, Warsaw</td>
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<tr>
<td>24.11</td>
<td>Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council - energy (TTE - Energy), Brussels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24.11</td>
<td>Ministerial conference 'Integrated Approach to Development – a Key to Smart, Sustainable and Inclusive Europe', Poznań</td>
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<tr>
<td>24-25.11</td>
<td>European Competition and Consumer Day, Poznań</td>
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<tr>
<td>25.11</td>
<td>Informal Meeting of Ministers responsible for EU Cohesion Policy (Regional Policy), Territorial and Urban Development, Poznań</td>
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<tr>
<td>28-29.11</td>
<td>Education, youth, culture and sport Council (EYCS), Brussels</td>
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<tr>
<td>30.11</td>
<td>Economic and Financial Affairs Council (ECOFIN), Brussels</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>December</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.12</td>
<td>Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council (EPSCO), Brussels</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.12</td>
<td>Foreign Affairs Council (FAC), Brussels</td>
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<tr>
<td>1-2.12</td>
<td>Senior Officials-level conference ‘EU and Southern Neighbourhood’, Warsaw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.12</td>
<td>Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council - Health (EPSCO - Health), Brussels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.12</td>
<td>General Affairs Council (GAC), Brussels</td>
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<td>5-6.12</td>
<td>Competitiveness Council (COMPET), Brussels</td>
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<td>5-6.12</td>
<td>‘European Conference – Legal Aid’, Warsaw</td>
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<td>8-9.12</td>
<td>EUROPEAN COUNCIL, Brussels</td>
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<tr>
<td>12.12</td>
<td>Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council – transport (TTE - Transport), Brussels</td>
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<tr>
<td>13-14.12</td>
<td>Justice and Home Affairs Council (JHA), Brussels</td>
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<tr>
<td>15-16.12</td>
<td>Justice and Home Affairs Council (AGRIFISH), Brussels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-16.12</td>
<td>European Development Days, Warsaw</td>
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<tr>
<td>16.12</td>
<td>Formal Meeting of Minister Responsible for Cohesion Policy within General Affairs Council, Brussels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19.12</td>
<td>Environment Council (ENVI), Brussels</td>
</tr>
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</table>
1. Assessment of Polish Presidency

More than one-half of Polish respondents (53%) expressed favourable opinions of Polish Presidency\(^1\). Approximately 1/4 of respondents (27%) were unable to offer an unambiguous assessment, while the remaining 20% expressed a negative opinion.

Graph No. 1

What is your opinion concerning Poland’s European Union Council Presidency in the latter half of 2011?

2. The Presidency’s Impact on Poland’s Image Abroad

The largest single group of respondents (39%)\(^2\) believe that Poland’s European Union Council Presidency has served to improve the image of Poland abroad. According to 1/3 of Polish respondents, Poland’s EU Council Presidency has had no impact on Poland’s image. The smallest group of respondents (13%) believes that Polish image abroad has deteriorated as a result of our Presidency.

Graph No. 2

In the second half of 2011, Poland held the Presidency of the European Union Council. In your opinion, how did the Polish Presidency influence the image of Poland abroad?

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\(^1\) GfK Polonia commissioned by the Department of European Information/Ministry of Foreign Affairs (DEI/MFA), January 2012.

\(^2\) GfK Polonia commissioned by DEI/MFA, January 2012.
3. Polish Presidency Priorities - Performance

Nearly one-half of Polish respondents (48%)\(^3\) believe that Poland managed to implement priorities defined for Poland’s European Union Council Presidency. A negative opinion was expressed by slightly more than ¼ respondents (26%), with another ¼ (26%) unable to offer an unambiguous opinion on the matter.

Graph No. 3

In general terms, how do you think Poland did in terms of implementing Presidency priorities as planned?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Opinion</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>very well</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>well</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>poorly</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>very poorly</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I don’t know / I don’t have an opinion</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. Knowledge of the Polish European Union Council Presidency

Research has shown that Polish knowledge of the Presidency developed considerably over the period from December 2009\(^4\), when the question concerning Polish Presidency dates was asked for the first time, to December 2011\(^5\). In December 2009, just under 1/5 of Poles participating in the study (17%) could specify the correct date of Poland’s assuming the Presidency. After Poland had completed its chairmanship in December 2011, more than 3/5 of respondents (63%) knew that Poland had held the EU Council Presidency during the latter half of 2011.

Furthermore, towards the end of the Polish Presidency, 3/5 of respondent Poles (63%)\(^6\) claimed that their knowledge of Poland’s EU Council Presidency was sufficient. Slightly more than 1/3 of respondents (34%) felt insufficiently informed.

Specific knowledge of the Presidency, and its tasks in particular, was confirmed in qualitative (in-depth) research\(^7\). In group discussion, respondents were able to list the tasks (responsibilities) of the state acting as President of the European Union Council. Correct responses were also provided to the Presidency trio question – respondents knew that Denmark and Cyprus form a Presidency trio with Poland.

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\(^3\) GfK Polonia commissioned by DEI/MFA, January 2012.
\(^4\) GfK Polonia commissioned by DEI/MFA, December 2009.
\(^5\) GfK Polonia commissioned by DEI/MFA, December 2011.
\(^6\) GfK Polonia commissioned by DEI/MFA, December 2011.
\(^7\) Qualitative study, TNS OBOP commissioned by DEI/MFA, December 2010, June 2011, November 2011.
5. Importance of Polish Presidency

Public opinion polls were also used to monitor social attitudes to the fact of Poland was holding European Council Presidency.

According to an October 2011 study\(^8\), 71% of Poles stated that Polish EU Council Presidency was important (very important to 14% of respondents). Twenty-two per cent believed otherwise.

Since April 2010\(^9\), when Poles were asked for the first time to express their opinion concerning Poland’s EU Council Presidency, the share of respondents believing the Polish Presidency to be important increased by 2 percentage points (October 2011). In April 2010, 69% of respondents believed that the Polish Presidency was important. Such was the response of 66% of respondents in October 2010\(^10\), 64% of respondents in April 2011\(^11\), and 71% of respondents in October 2011. Concurrently, throughout the period under scrutiny the share of respondents for whom the Polish Presidency deemed was unimportant increased by 1 percentage point (21% in April 2010 to 22% in October 2011).

Graph No. 4

Qualitative\(^{12}\) (in-depth) research confirmed the considerable importance of Poland’s EU Council Presidency. Focus group participants emphasised that the office offered an opportunity for Poland’s positive image abroad, strengthened the Polish voice in Europe, generated opportunities for developing solutions more favourable for Poland in the European Union, and – primarily – enabled the promotion of Poland abroad.

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\(^8\) GfK Polonia on commission by DEI/MFA, October 2011.
\(^9\) GfK Polonia on commission by DEI/MFA, April 2010.
\(^10\) GfK Polonia on commission by DEI/MFA, April 2011.
\(^11\) GfK Polonia on commission by DEI/MFA, October 2010.
\(^12\) Qualitative study, TNS OBOP commissioned by DEI/MFA, December 2010, June 2011, November 2011.